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## OPINION METER

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INSIDE



## RP Idol

On the day he returned from his latest boxing conquest, the "Pac-man's" schedule was as power-packed as his famed punches.

MAHARLIKA...Page 12



## GQ Cover

Jennifer Aniston wears a tie—and nothing else—on the January cover of GQ magazine.

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Rabauliman is Little Miss Jollibee 2008. **PAGE 2**  
High winds cause outages in parts of Saipan. **PAGE 5**

## Korean economic woes impact NMI

November arrivals flat compared to last year's



SAIPAN TRIBUNE/FILE PHOTO

Inbound tourists line up at the Immigration counter of the Saipan International Airport in this file picture. The Marianas Visitors Authority is reporting flat arrival figures in November this year.

**F**ollowing two months of year-over-year increase in visitor arrivals, the Marianas Visitors Authority is reporting a slight dip in numbers, attributed in part to a cooling Korean economy.

Arrivals for the month of November 2008 were virtually the same compared to the same period the previous year. Total visitor arrivals to the CNMI reached

31,690, a mere 72 more visitors than November 2007.

After posting consistent gains over the

See **KOREAN** on Page 4

## NMI artists present tribute to musical legend

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.  
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REPORTER



Pangelinan

Performing artists will give a fitting tribute to one of the CNMI's legendary musicians, the late Frank Matagolai Pangelinan, during funeral ceremonies today at the Mt. Carmel Cathedral.

Pangelinan, who is well-known by his moniker "Bokong-See **NMI** on Page 4

## OIA approves Fitial's \$3.8M request

Money to be used to fund CUC engine repairs

The U.S. government has granted the Commonwealth's request to reprogram federal funds for engine repairs at the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s main power plant.

The \$3.8 million fund comes on top of the \$6.4



Fitial

million that the U.S. Office of Insular Affairs had previously given CUC.

"We needed these funds from the federal government. They saw the merits of our request, and we appreciate their support," press secretary

See **OIA** on Page 4

## US eases visa requirements for nurses

Says shortage may become national security concern

By VERONICA UY  
[INQUIRER.NET](http://INQUIRER.NET)

**MANILA, Philippines**—The US government has issued a directive to relax visa procedures for foreign nurses after

the Department of Homeland Security acknowledged the acute shortage of the health care professionals there.

The directive, Processing of "Schedule A" Nurse Visas, and released on Dec. See **US** on Page 4



## Local

# Group calls on FAS citizens for meeting on IR issue

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.  
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REPORTER

The immediate and long-term solutions to the status of the immediate relatives of citizens of Freely Associated States will be the main agenda in an emergency meeting being organized by the United Workers Movement of NMI for tomorrow.

UWM president Irene Tantiado urged all FAS citizens and their spouses to attend this

meeting (Sunday Dec. 14) to discuss the issues in anticipation of the upcoming implementation of new immigration regulations next year.

The meeting will start at 6pm at Winchell's Garapan branch.

Tantiado said one of the main topics will be plans to ask the CNMI government to reconsider its decision to reject UWM's petition for extension to two years for permits of immediate relatives.

An update on the long-term solution to the FAS citizens' IR status issue will also be part of the agenda.

"We want to emphasize that this could be the last chance to do something to get an extension and so we are asking everybody to attend the meeting," Tantiado said.

The new immigration regulations will take effect in Jan. 1, 2009.

This week, Immigration Di-

rector Melvin L. Grey pictured a bleak prospect for UWM's earlier request to grant an extension to the permits of FAS citizens' immediate relatives.

Grey said these aliens are subject to FAS laws and should pursue their status with their respective FAS governments.

UWM said they will not give up working for the extension of these aliens' IR permits.

UWM is urging Immigration to extend the permit, which she

said should be worked out by the CNMI government and not the FAS governments.

The CNMI Immigration had already stated that IRs of CNMI permanent residents are qualified for extension of a two-year permit.

Grey said the same two-year extension would also be applied to IRs of qualified foreign national workers because the proposed regulations make foreign national workers eligible for a

two-year permit and their immediate relatives are eligible for the same length of time as the alien sponsor.

Grey also said IRs of U.S. nationals will be treated in the same manner as IRs of U.S. citizens.

## Guam airmen to be recognized

GUAM—About 90 airmen of the Guam Air National Guard are scheduled to be recognized during a Hometown Heroes Ceremony at the Meehan Theater on Andersen Air Force Base Sunday, Dec. 14, from 9am to 10:30am for their services while on deployment.

The airmen who will be recognized have deployed to various locations such as Afghanistan, Qatar, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and the Philippines.

Chief Master Sgt. Richard Smith, command chief of the Air Guard, said the Air Guard's Hometown Heroes Salute Campaign will recognize what could be more than 70,000 guardsmen who have deployed for more than 30 consecutive days since Sept. 11, 2001. Qualifying contingencies include operations in Iraq and Afghanistan and domestic missions like Hurricane Katrina relief efforts.

"We have not properly recognized our airmen," Smith told the Guard's adjutants general, Air Guard commanders and command chief master sergeants during a recent senior leadership conference in Virginia.

Eligible Guard members will receive a cherry wood-encased letter of appreciation signed by

See GUAM on Next Page

## Rabauliman is Little Miss Jollibee 2008

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.  
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REPORTER

Ezra P. Rabauliman bested 11 other contestants in Jollibee's 9th year anniversary special event—the Little Miss Jollibee Saipan during the coronation night on Wednesday.

Despite not winning any of the six special awards, Rabauliman was third to be called back to the stage during the announcement of the five finalists.

The top five included Kristine Kate Fajardo, Elisha Gaile Posadas, Rabauliman, Alyssa Ashley Carag, and Marianne Ellesse Corpus.

Rabauliman was eventually adjudged the winner, while Posadas was named first runner-up; Fajardo, second runner up; Corpus, third runner-up; and Carag, fourth runner-up.

Carag was earlier given the Miss Photogenic award while Fajardo was awarded the Miss Friendship title.

Britney Ann Tomokane got three of the six special awards, including best in sportswear, best in gown and Miss Famous/Customers' Choice Award.



REY BELGADO

The winners are, from left, Marianne Ellesse Corpus, third runner-up; Kristine Kate Fajardo, second runner-up; Little Miss Jollibee Saipan Ezra Rabauliman; Elisha Gaile Posadas, first runner-up; and Alyssa Ashley Carag, fourth runner-up. They are seen here posing with the judges—Carl Hocog, May Mangahis, Bettina Fuertes, and Vivian Bernardo—and the staff of Jollibee.

The other special award—talent—went to Marianne Camille Saavedra.

The other contestants were Kai Vidal, Bernadette C. Jacinto, Angelica Rose Rico,

Angel Mae Oropesa and Mi-kaella S. Cunanan.

Rabauliman won gift certificates from Liberty Department Store courtesy of Saipan Industrial Gas, gift certificates from Jol-

libee, JG Sablan, National Office Supply, Herman's Modern bakery, cash from YCO Corp., Jollibee gift packs, a Pepsi chair from PTC, trophy, and other items.

The other winning con-

testants also brought home corresponding prizes.

The criteria for judging included beauty, sportswear, gown, intelligence, customers' choice and talent.

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# Manager allegedly forged 100-plus company checks

## Tells employers they will get paid upon his death

A company manager allegedly forged over a hundred company checks that amounted to over \$20,000, telling his employers they will be paid back upon his death.

Sun Kyou Joo, 36, was arrested on Tuesday for theft and forgery. A \$6,000 cash bail was initially imposed for the defen-

dant's temporary liberty.

In yesterday's bail hearing, Superior Court associate judge Ramona V. Manglona agreed to impose a \$600 cash bail and \$5,400 unsecured bond on the defendant.

Manglona granted Joo's request to appoint his uncle as third-party custodian.

Arraignment was set for Dec. 29, 2008.

Detective Joaquin I. Deleon Guerrero stated in his report that police started conducting the investigation on Nov. 4 when an employee of XO Market in Chalan Laulau reported a theft case to the Department of Public Safety.

## Tour companies give NMC \$8K

Tasi Tours and R & C gave Northern Marianas College \$8,000 in education tax credit.

Yesterday, officials from both tour companies presented the check to NMC president Carmen Fernandez.

Kazusuke Fukuju, presi-

dent of Tasi Tours, said that, with the difficult economic times, it's important to help other entities.

Hideki Sakai, general manager for R&C Tours, said the money could go toward the college's effort to reach full ac-

creditation.

He also hopes it will help with the company's travel agent's exchange program, he said.

Many businesses within the CNMI choose to give education tax credits to local schools. *(Kristi Eaton)*



KRISTI EATON

Officials from Tasi Tours and R&C Tours present NMC president Carmen Fernandez with a check for \$8,000 yesterday.

## GUAM

From Page 2

Smith and former Air Guard director, Gen. Craig R. McKinley, now Chief of the National Guard Bureau. Also enclosed in the frame will be a commemorative coin.

"The program also thanks families, communities and employers," said Chief Master

Sgt. Christopher Muncy, Ohio's command chief.

Spouses will receive a "Hometown Heroes Salute"—engraved pen and pencil set—and children will get a set of personalized dog tags. Airmen can also decide on an influential leader or group in their community and present that person or organization with a special medallion of appreciation.

Guardsmen who have de-

ployed for 180 consecutive days or more are eligible for additional honors. A framed American flag with inset coins will be presented to airmen who served 180 to 365 consecutive days. An eagle statuette will be presented for deployments of more than 365 consecutive days.

Although airmen can earn all three awards, they cannot receive and award more than once. *(PR)*

Deleon Guerrero said a police officer who had responded to the store learned that Sung Sook Cho, part-owner of Kim & Cho Co. Ltd. that owns Cool Car Wash, had gone to XO Market to inform them about the forgery.

Cho claimed one of her employees, Jo, cashed the company checks by forging the signatures at XO Market and H-Mart.

Detective Deleon Guerrero said that during his interview with Cho on Nov. 21, the businesswoman stated that her husband, Yung Dae Kim, came to Saipan in June 2008 and opened Cool Car Wash.

Joo, who was hired as the manager for the business, asked

Kim to open a checking account in order to run the business on the island.

Kim opened a checking account with Bank of Saipan. He is the only authorized signatory to the checks.

The businessman gave Joo the company's post office key and instructed him to receive the company mail when they come in.

Kim left for Korea at the end of July 2008. In September, Cho arrived on the island and took over the operation of their business.

At her request, Joo gave her the post office key and 59 pieces of company checks.

Cho mailed the checks to Korea as Kim would be signing and issuing checks from there.

Cho, however, later learned that company checks had been cashed at XO and H-Mart. She further discovered that over a hundred pieces of returned company checks had been forged.

When the businesswoman confronted Joo about it, the defendant allegedly apologized to her. Joo reportedly stated that Cho and Kim will be paid back upon his death.

Bank of Saipan informed Cho that the forged company checks that had been cashed amount to over \$20,000. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

## 3 defrauded alien workers go to court

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
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REPORTER

Three alien workers who, despite a Department of Labor order, still failed to get any payment from the employers who had defrauded them, have decided to go to court to compel payment.

Yu Shengxiang, Jin Chengquan, and Hang Liya, all Chinese, sued Dragon Corp., Kuan Y. Leung, and Jin Shu for breach of contract.

The plaintiffs, through counsel S. Joshua Berger, alleged that the defendants are in breach of their employment contracts as well as the Labor's administrative order.

Shengxiang and Liya asked the Superior Court to order Dragon Corp. and Leung to pay them \$7,844 and \$7,844 in damages respectively.

Chengquan asked the court to order Dragon Corp., Leung, and Jin Shu to pay him \$8,212 in damages.

Berger stated in the complaint that all three plaintiffs were employed by Dragon Corp. and Leung.

Berger said Chengquan was also employed as a waiter by Jin Shu in a karaoke establishment that is jointly owned by Shu and co-defendants Dragon Corp. and Leung.

The lawyer said more than 15 days has elapsed since the issuance of Labor's administrative order, but none of the money has been paid.

In Labor's administrative order dated Nov. 18, 2008, hearing officer Herbert D. Soll permanently disqualified Dragon Corp. and Leung from employing nonresident workers in the

CNMI.

Soll found Dragon Corp. and Leung jointly liable to pay Shengxiang and Liya in the amount of \$1,500 each for illegal charges such as employer's processing of a labor application, plus \$6,344 each for one year's wages.

Soll ruled that Leung, Dragon Corp. and Shu are jointly indebted to Chengquan in the total amount of \$8,212 in unpaid wages and damages.

The hearing officer also sanctioned Leung and Dragon Corp. to each pay a \$2,000 sanction.

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# Man allegedly hit minor son with belt buckle

A man allegedly hit his son on the body with a belt buckle for refusing to shower and go to school Thursday morning.

Erwin Evence, 33, was arrested for child abuse or child neglect.

The boy sustained a bruise on his back, police said.

Detective Patrick E. Maanao stated

in his report that police responded to a residence in Susupe after receiving a child abuse complaint.

Maanao said that when a police officer arrived at the house, Evence stated that he had scolded his son for not showering so he could go to school.

The officer noticed that Evence didn't seem to want the officer to see

the child. The officer also observed a bruise on the child's back.

When asked about the bruise, Evence first stated he merely spanked the child, but later admitted he used a belt, Maanao said.

The responding officer noted that the markings on the bruise were consistent with the belt buckle design.

Evence was then placed under arrest.

Maanao said some family members disclosed that they also saw bruises on the boy in the past.

At yesterday's hearing, Superior

Court associate judge Ramona M. Manglona imposed a \$5,000 cash bail for Evence's temporary liberty.

Preliminary hearing was set for Dec. 18. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

## US

From Page 1

5, noted that "visa availability" remains the main obstacle for foreign nurses seeking work in the US, whether they intend to become immigrants or not.

The Office of the Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS) Ombudsman of the DHS, which released the directive, said that while the Department of Labor (DoL) has already allowed employers to bypass the first step in the hiring process, it enjoins the USCIS to adjust its procedures as well.

"Specifically the USCIS should separate and prioritize, as well as centralize, its process for [Schedule A] applications in accordance with Congress' expressed concern over the national nursing shortage and to ensure consistent adjudication of applications," it said.

The DoL has designated registered nurses (RNs) as a Schedule A occupation, meaning there are insufficient US nurses able, willing, qualified, and available to fill the vacancies. The designation also means the wages and working conditions of US nurses will not be adversely affected by the employment of foreign nurses.

The CIS Ombudsman noted that all the criteria needed for automatically expediting such applications from em-

ployers apply to the US nursing shortage -- "extreme emergent situation," "humanitarian situation," and "compelling interest of the service."

It noted that the shortage will impact on the quality of patient health care in the US. "The shortage of RNs and an increased workload for current nurses is a threat to the quality of patient care," it said.

On the other hand, centralizing the applications would result in "more efficient processing times and improved consistency in the adjudications."

Lawyer Ibaro Relamida, counsel of Sentosa Recruitment Agency, said the directive will take effect right away. He said Sentosa's 600 Filipino nurses are expected to get their EB3 visas within the month.

"Last month, we were able to send only 20 nurses to the US," he told INQUIRER.net. "We still have the visas of 1,000 being processed."

A 2007 study of the US Department of Health and Human Services shows that the US would need 1.2 million nurses by 2014, about half a million to meet the demand, and 700,000 more to replace those leaving the profession.

In its report, the CIS Ombudsman cited a warning from the Americans for Nursing Shortage Relief to the House Subcommittee on the Nursing Crisis that the "shortage could result in seri-

ous national security and health concerns if there is a pandemic flu or other man-made or natural disaster, and the United States does not have adequate health care resources to respond."

The CIS Ombudsman acknowledged that the US cannot expect to meet the growing demand for nurses. It also recognized that the piecemeal approach to visa applications for foreign nurses would not work.

Currently, foreign nurses can work in the US if they have any of the following visas:

■ H1C non-immigrant visas, three-year visas for nurses in specified areas with nurse shortage, were issued to 49 in 2007 and 110 in 2008;

■ TN non-immigrant visas, also three-year visas with an option to extend in increments of three years open to Canadians and Mexicans, were issued to 194 in 2006 and 356 in 2007;

■ H1-B non-immigrant visas, for nurses in specialized occupations, were issued only to 38 in 2006, 66 in 2007, and 136 in 2008;

■ EB3 immigrant visas, which gives foreign nurses permanent legal residence (the so-called "green card"), are the ones on DoL's Schedule A. Although the most common visas issued for foreign nurses, they depend on visa availability as determined by the Department of State. In 2007, a total of 9,689 such visas were issued.



## BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Advanced happy birthday greetings go out to Gen Angeles, who will be celebrating her birthday tomorrow, Dec. 14. "We love you, Mama." Greetings come from Jerish and Matty.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## OIA

From Page 1

Charles P. Reyes Jr. said yesterday.

The reprogramming approval follows Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's recent letter to OIA director Nikolao Pula. In the letter, Fitial details the plans and processes CUC will undergo to fix the engines and why more funding is necessary. In September Pula had written Fitial asking for a more detailed plan on the use of funds.

"To clarify, CUC's request for additional \$3.8 million to fund continuing rehabilitation efforts for Saipan Power Plant 1 engines is prompted by CUC's inability to fund major repairs of PP1 engines from its own limited working capital resources," Fitial wrote.

Fitial notes that CUC did enter into a contract with DCM to repair six of the eight engines at Power Plant 1, but that on July 10, 2008, the contract was terminated because the engines were not repaired. Only \$410,000 was paid out of the \$5.4 million contract at the time of the termination, he said.

"As stated earlier, in that CUC's working capital resources were insufficient to have funded for any major repairs, CUC would have required financial assistance to pay for the balance of the contract if [the] contractor's performance was unsatisfactory," Fitial wrote.

CUC executive director Antonio Muña said the \$3.8 million, along with leftover money, would total \$5.4 million, enough for the necessary engines to be repaired. (*Agnes E. Donato*)

## NMI

From Page 1

go," passed away on Dec. 4 in Guam. He was 54.

His remains arrived yesterday and were escorted to Nuestra Señora Dela Paz Memorial Chapel at the Cabrera Center.

A Mass will be held today at 11am at the Mt. Carmel Cathedral, to be followed by the internment services at the Chalan Kanoa Catholic Cemetery.

On Thursday night, several local performing artists gathered at the home of one of Bokonggo's contemporaries, Alexandro "The Colonel" Sablan, himself a well-known musician.

Former representatives Candy Taman, one of Bokonggo's long time partners in the music industry, was also present during the rehearsal for

the tribute that they will be offering in today's Mass.

For more than three decades, Pangelinan wrote numerous songs and produced many records for many of Guam's musicians.

Sablan said the loss of one of the Marianas' homegrown recording star is felt by the entire community.

"[His death] permeates through all the local Chamorro music fans on our island world. We sadly mourn the loss of a very strong advocate of the recording world of Chamorro songs with the passing of Frank Pangelinan "Bokonggo." He is now resting but his legacy will never die," said Sablan, who was a radio announcer for more than 20 years.

Sablan said he grew up with Bokonggo, whom he said helped shape the form of music in the CNMI.

"He always came to my shows," he said.

Bokonggo immortalized the song *Triste Yu*.

Sablan recalled that *Triste Yu* became the all-time hit that no local artists ever matched and the song was the most requested at all radio stations.

"That song is both sad and romantic, it takes people's breath away. It was really a very powerful song," Sablan said.

In a letter to the editor, John S. Del-Rosario Jr., one of Bokonggo's contemporary with the band Tropicsette, lauded Pangelinan's talent, saying: "My buddy could belt anything from Latin rock to traditional songs with super renditions. Perhaps his best hit was the adaption *Triste Yu* that was in the hearts and minds of both young and old for many years now. This song became an international classic, picked up by

other musicians the world over using their native tongue."

In another letter, Tropicsette band leader Herbert Del Rosario cited Bokonggo's contributions to local music such as *Triste Yu*, *I Pution*, *Ingratto*, *Gi Talo Gi Halom Tasi*, *Patgon Neni*, *Down by the Shore of Saipan*, *Hago I Inan I Langet*, and many other popular Chamorro songs, including the Chamolinian Christmas album that Bokonggo, Candy Taman and the late Quirino Aquino recorded.

Sablan said that Bokonggo's music will continue to live in the hearts of the people that he loved.

"I will never forget the recording trips, as we would travel to Manila on separate projects, but with the same recording studios. He was a very humorous person and was always full of vibrant energy. I asked him once about

doing work other than music, and he said that he has already made up his mind to live life with his talent. To me, that became a great encouragement," Sablan said.

He said Bokonggo built and operated what at that time was a state-of-the-art 24-track recording studio in Yigo, Guam, producing beautiful songs.

"I managed to secure recording time at his studios and recorded major commercial productions for major companies like JC Tenorio Enterprises, Anheuser-Busch, and Continental Air Micronesia," he said.

"I was still working at KSAI Radio in Susupe when Frank Pangelinan released the title cut *Tristi Yu*. As soon as I finished the debut broadcast of that song, jackpot! It immediately became the number one most requested song 10 years in a row."

## KOREAN

From Page 1

last year, arrivals from Korea dropped a significant 23 percent last month to 8,912 visitors. Perry Tenorio, managing director of MVA, cited two major factors influencing travelers from Korea: the depreciation of the Korean won and a Korean government request to its citizens to cut back on overseas travel.

The exchange rate between the U.S. dollar and the Korean won has, from the traveler's viewpoint, slipped dramatically, said Tenorio.

"A tourist from Korea back in August 2008 received a dollar for every

thousand won he offered in exchange. Today, that same tourist would have to spend over 1,500 won to get that same dollar. In short, it will cost him half again as much to travel to a U.S. dollar-based destination as before," said Tenorio. "This is a serious obstacle to someone thinking of traveling during the next few months. This exchange discrepancy will likely ease over time, but will affect short-term travel decisions negatively."

The Korean national government has also issued a communiqué requesting its citizens not to travel out the country in order to reduce cash outflow and to help stabilize the won against foreign currencies.

"This government communiqué has come in patriotic terms rather than an outright ban on offshore travel, but even so, we expect it will carry a lot of weight with Korean citizens," said Tenorio. "This no-travel request will probably be lifted once the won stabilizes and exchange rates return to a more normal level. Meanwhile outbound travel from Korea can be expected to dwindle seriously."

November 2008 was a strong month for the Japan market with a 28 percent increase in arrivals compared to November 2007. Japan generated 17,055 visitors in the month of October, a figure 3,773 above arrivals in November 2007. One major factor that contribut-

ed to this growth is airline seats capacity. In November 2007, the CNMI had two daily direct flights from Japan with total seats of 480 per day. In 2008, the number of direct flights doubled from two to four per day, bringing the total number of seats to 844.

Russia continues to record growth, with arrivals jumping 75 percent to 456 visitors. MVA travel partners in Russia have launched an aggressive promotion designed to lure travel to the CNMI, and the CNMI is expecting three charter flights from Vladivostok before the end of January.

Arrivals from China continue to plunge due to a reduction in airline seats. For the month, arrivals reached

2,040 visitors, a 28-percent decreased compare to November 2007. The CNMI has only one direct flight from Shanghai, China, compared to two in November 2007 when the CNMI had two direct flights from Guangzhou and Beijing.

Cumulative arrivals this fiscal year total 60,578 visitors, or 1,722 (2.93 percent) visitors ahead of the same period last year.

With the economies of Japan and Korea on the downswing and the uncertainty of continued visa waivers for China and Russia, tourism in Saipan, Tinian, and Rota faces significant unpredictability in 2009, the MVA said. (*MVA*)



# High winds cause outages in parts of Saipan

Parts of Saipan experienced power interruptions Thursday night and early Friday morning due to high winds brought by a tropical depression passing near Rota.

In a statement issued yesterday, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. said an aged pole in Feeder 4 failed and burned the power pole Thursday at 7:17pm.

"The line crew made all necessary coordination with the power plant to de-energize the power to the area to begin the

repairs," said CUC.

The fire was controlled and terminated and the line crew restored the power at 8:38pm.

At 10:02pm that same night, Kiya 4 automatically tripped due to a failed primary line connection. The connection had deteriorated causing the line to fall and resulting in a primary neutral short, which tripped the feeder. Attempts to repair the problem were made and the feeder was restored at 10:58pm.

At 10:19pm, Feeder 4 and 7 also automatically tripped due

to a failed pole top pin in front of the Kagman High School. The problem was identified and isolated and the repairs initiated. The repairs were completed and the feeder was fully restored at 12:06am.

At 11:04pm, Kiya 4 again automatically tripped due another failed primary connection. Because the problem had occurred in a heavily vegetated and dense location of the Chalan Kiya golf area, the line crew was not able to immediately address the problem and restore power to

the affected areas. The lateral was isolated and all other remaining portions of the Kiya 4

were restored by 11:41pm.

The following morning the needed heavy equipment was



used to clear an entrance for the line crew and their trucks to perform the necessary repairs and all vegetation was cleared to minimize future power interruptions in the area.

"The CUC apologizes for any inconvenience the...power interruptions imposed on the community and [it] will continue to work diligently to perform the necessary system maintenance to minimize future power interruptions," said the CUC statement. **(CUC)**

Heavy equipment is used to clear an entrance for the line crew and their trucks to perform the necessary repairs on a line that went down in a heavily vegetated part of the Chalan Kiya golf area. All vegetation was cleared to minimize future power interruptions in the area.

## CUC balks at CDA conditions in loan talks

By KRISTI EATON  
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. disagrees with some of the requirements the Commonwealth Development Authority is proposing during the agencies' negotiations to settle a \$177.5 million loan, according to CDA's legal counsel.

During a board of directors meeting yesterday, Ben Santos told the members that CUC's legal counsel was concerned about two issues, preferred stock agreements and an extra vote on the CUC's board of directors.

Public Law 16-17, which seeks to privatize the utility company, allows CUC to issue \$45 million in preferred stock to CDA. CUC owes CDA \$61.6 million in loan principal and \$115.9 in interest, for a total of \$177.5 million.

Santos said CUC's legal counsel has concerns about the preferred stock having priority over CUC's other creditors. The CDA board of directors wanted the provision in case the utility company acquired loans and extended its assets

for security, making CDA subservient, he added.

"It's very important that CDA has priority over other creditors and CDA has a major say-so on those items," Santos said.

CUC also objected to allowing CDA two votes for financial issues as part of CUC's board of directors, Santos said, adding that he anticipated CUC would object.

Currently, CUC does not have a board of directors but the law requires the utility company to create an eight-member board with one CDA representative.

According to Santos, CDA is requesting the extra vote on matters regarding privatization, approval of performance contracts, and remedies in default situations.

"We're asking for this type of addition, or weighted vote, in terms of the board deciding issues in respect to CUC's finances because we wanted to have that paramount authority over certain things," Santos said, adding that he believes CDA should continue to pursue the requirements.

"I know it's a sticking point,

but I believe this is something that can be worked through, and I will do my best to endeavor that this is CDA's board point of view," he said.

Santos, who received CUC's views Tuesday, said he will set up a meeting to try to come to an agreement so the privatization law can go into effect.

"I believe that if we can resolve this and push to have this purchase agreement executed, we can implement the terms of the law that requires this be put in place," Santos said. "So once it's in place any discussion to privatize, if that be the direction CUC will take, will certainly have CDA on board."

In testimony prepared for the Public Utilities Commission's effort to set new power rates, Georgetown Consulting said fiscal year 2007 records show CUC is insolvent, which is principally related to CUC's default of repayment terms for its CDA loans.

"This default is a major financial event and, until cured, will prevent CUC access to traditional short- and long-term credit makers," the report states.

## Muna: Collecting past CUC fees imperative

By KRISTI EATON  
kristi\_eaton@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s executive director reiterated his need to collect all customers' current and past payments.

Antonio Muña said it's imperative for all CUC customers to make payments in order for the utility company to pay its vendors—Mobil, Telesource, Aggreko, PMIC and Shell.

A recent report by Georgetown Consulting showed CUC's account receivables for fiscal year 2007 were \$31.2

million, \$9.6 million of which came from government agencies, although it does not specify what agencies.

Muña said he is not going to let the number increase while he is executive director.

"That's not going to happen on my watch," he said.

Muña said the government is current on all its payments except for the Public School System, which owes more than \$1 million. There is some dispute on how much money PSS owes and, Muña said, they are working to reconcile the numbers.

Gov. Benigno Fitial instructed Muña to "aggressively" pursue all past due accounts owed to CUC.

Board of Education chair Lucy Blanco-Maratita said the BOE has instructed Education Commissioner Rita Sablan to use the remaining \$200,000 in the budget to cover the costs.

Muña said that amount is a good start but it will not cover all the fees.

"We need to sit down and say 'this is a start.' Twenty thousand dollars is good if that's how much they owe," he said.

## Live-fire training on Farallon

The U.S. military would be conducting live-fire training on the island of Farallon de Mendonilla on Dec. 15-19, 2008, from 9am to 9pm.

This activity will take place on the island's training

area on a 10 nautical radius on all quadrants.

Due to the danger imposed by this activity, the Emergency Management Office is advising the public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots and

marine tour operators—to stay away from this area during the time and dates indicated.

For more information, contact the EMO Operations Section at telephone numbers 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF Marine CHNL 16 and HF single side band radio on 5.205.0. **(EMO)**

### ROTA CASINO GAMING COMMISSION (RCGC)

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
P.O. Box 1547 ROTA, MP 96951

Pursuant to the Open Government Act, the Chairman, Diego M. Songao hereby announces that the RCGC's regular meeting for December, 2008 will be held as follows:

DATE: **DECEMBER 16, 2008**  
TIME: **11:00 A.M.**  
LOCATION: **Rota Casino Gaming Commission's Office, Public Library Annex Building, Tatachog Rota**

#### AGENDA

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Roll call**
- III. Adoption of Agenda**
- IV. Adoption of Minutes**
- V. Chairman's Report**
- VI. New Business**
  1. Adoption of Rules and Regulations
  2. Casino Applications
- VII. Miscellaneous Matters**
- VIII. Adjournment**

\* At anytime during the meeting, the commission may move to executive session.

/s/ Diego M. Songao  
Chairman

### COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

## NOTICE OF MEETING OF THE CRM REGULATORY AGENCIES

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41 Section 11, Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy T. Villagomez through the Coastal Resources Management Office (CRMO) hereby give notice that a CRM Regulatory Agency Meeting will be held on Tuesday, 16 December 2008 at 9:00 A.M. at the CRM conference room, 1st Floor Morgen Building in San Jose, Saipan.

#### AGENDA

- I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS**
  - a) Call to Order
  - b) Roll Call
- II. PERMIT APPLICATION**
  1. Tinian Ocean View Resort & Casino Project CRM Permit No. TMS-2008-X-032
  2. Ming Commercial Building-CRM Permit No. SMS-2008-X-034
  3. Closure of the Puerto Rico Dump Permit No. SMS-2008-X-099
- III. MISCELLANEOUS**
- IV. ADJOURNMENT**

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. (Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Agencies may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/ JOHN B. JOYNER, Ph.D.  
Director



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
**NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION**  
Tel. (670) 234-6866, 234-9447, 234-7689, 234-7670 • Fax. (670) 234-9021  
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp



## PUBLIC NOTICE

(This Notice is paid by NMHC with HUD Funds.)

Governor Benigno R. Fitial, Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, and the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairman, Mr. Manuel A. Sablan, wish to announce that its Consolidated Annual Performance Report (CAPER) for Program Year 2007, is available for review and comments by the general public no later than December 28, 2008. The office will be open on Sunday, December 28, 2008 from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Written comments must be submitted to the NMHC Office in Garapan, Saipan, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, or by contacting Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Planner/Grant Writer, at 234-9447/7689.

The report will be submitted to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Honolulu Office, by December 29, 2008. The CAPER encompasses the performance assessment of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Home Investment Partnership Act (HOME) and Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) Programs in the Commonwealth.

The report is available at the NMHC Central Office in Saipan and at the respective NMHC Field Offices in Rota and Tinian during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

/s/  
**Merced M. Tomokane**  
Acting Chairwoman of the Board



# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

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Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

### EDITORIAL

## Hail the autocrat

**T**he impending collapse of at least two of the Big Three U.S. automakers, General Motors and Chrysler, is not the sort of crisis that lends itself to a formulaic response. If this were a different, more prosperous time, the best option might be to let the companies file for Chapter 11 bankruptcy and work out a new business plan under a judge's supervision—a bit of creative destruction.

But under current circumstances—a historic credit crisis and rapidly accelerating economic downturn—the destruction wrought by a sudden, simultaneous bankruptcy of GM and Chrysler might not be at all creative. Such an outcome is worth trying to avoid, even at some cost to taxpayers, as long as the aid is tightly conditioned on a credible reorganization plan. But Congress should not use this crisis to pile all sorts of new mandates on the car companies, such as overly specific fuel efficiency targets. Here's the needle that the government must thread: Fund a second chance for the companies, without either leaving them free to mismanage themselves into another bailout or putting federal officials in charge of microscopic business decisions.

Under a plan proposed by the Bush administration and congressional leaders, and approved by the House this week, GM and Chrysler would get a loan to fund their operations until March 31, 2009. (Ford has said it has enough cash for the time being.) In return, the companies would submit to the supervision of a presidential appointee, informally known as the “car czar” or—as we prefer—the “autocrat.” The autocrat would then make sure that the carmakers, the United Auto Workers, bondholders, parts suppliers and other stakeholders contribute the sacrifices needed to make the two companies viable now and competitive in the future. If March 31 arrives and there is no deal, the autocrat must call the loans and consign the companies to their fates.

The plan does draw a clear bottom line for the companies: They would have to chart a course to positive net present value, meaning that their reasonably foreseeable cash flows would exceed the government's investment. A weakness of the proposal, however, is that it does not spell out the actual concessions to be made. We don't see how the companies can ensure their viability unless creditors convert much of their debt to equity—and the UAW both takes equity in lieu of payments to its retiree health fund and surrenders its current wage and benefit advantage over nonunion foreign-owned factories. This shortcoming should be addressed as the bill makes its way through a skeptical House and Senate.

What has emerged so far is hardly a risk-free framework. Once federal dollars start to flow, it will be that much harder to force GM, Chrysler and the UAW to keep any promises they made to secure the cash. But the fact that the March 31 deadline is firm and enforceable by a single official gives the various stakeholders relatively little wiggle room—and makes this a fair substitute for actual bankruptcy. Appropriately modified, it might work.

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## Mr. Bush, make us love you again

**I**t's not too late, President Bush. Sure, your approval ratings are lower than Richard Nixon's when he resigned, but you have six weeks to make this country love you again. The unnecessary wars, the curtailing of civil liberties, the economic collapse—all can be forgiven. Ozzy Osbourne bit the head off a bat and Americans embraced him after just a few weeks of his reality TV show.

So come out from wherever you're hiding and waiting for all this to end, and take some actions that might still save you from the trash heap of history.

■ **Have a baby:** Any magazine that's not in financial trouble has a pregnant celebrity on its cover. Laura did just turn 62, but I see women who look a lot older than her taking pre-natal yoga classes in Hollywood all the time. You might need to rethink the whole stem cell thing, but remember, pre-bailout you were pro-capitalism. Things change.

■ **Isolate and neg:** To get this down, you might have to watch a few episodes of VH1's reality show, “The Pick Up Artist.” The idea is that you can charm anyone by getting her alone and then ever-so-slightly insulting her, thereby making her wonder if she's good enough for you. I'm thinking you make a YouTube video where you wear a funny hat and medallion, make a quick joke about America's adjustable-rate mortgage problem, and then walk off to talk to a hot chick in the background. The nation will be left thinking, “Who was that George W. Bush? I thought he was a blundering idiot, but he's actually really intriguing.”

■ **Throw a party:** If I lived for eight years in a house I rented with no deposit, I'd have a high school reunion for all my Marlboro-puffing New Jersey friends. Andrew Jackson invited the public to his inauguration party, and that dude got on the \$20. Book Ludacris and T-Pain, and dub the Lincoln Bedroom the Lincoln and Cocaine Bedroom. You'll kick Grant off the \$50.

■ **Dance with the stars:** You think anyone loved Brooke Burke six weeks ago? She couldn't even keep a job on E! Practice hard and out-mambo Tara Reid and Plaxico Burress, and people will line up at your presidential library to get a glimpse of your ruffled pants.

■ **More face time with Obama:** People love this guy. When you invited him over and said you'd make the transition easy, you seemed patriotic and friendly but also, more important, like a guy who knows Barack Obama. It's a big White House, so how about six weeks of sleep-over parties? Take him to meetings, play some basketball, plot a prank on Dick Cheney—maybe one that involves a gun loaded with blanks and the shot-in-the-face guy. For at least six weeks, you'll be the beloved Obama sidekick. If it made Joe Biden likable, it will work for anyone.

■ **Take credit for low gas prices:** While I was running for co-president of Stanford's student council, football coach Bill

By JOEL STEIN

Special to the Los Angeles Times

Stein is a columnist for the Times. E-mail Stein at [jstein@latimescolumnists.com](mailto:jstein@latimescolumnists.com).

*You think anyone loved Brooke Burke six weeks ago? She couldn't even keep a job on E! Practice hard and out-mambo Tara Reid and Plaxico Burress, and people will line up at your presidential library to get a glimpse of your ruffled pants.*

Walsh was giving out seats on the 50-yard line to students. So my running mates and I said we'd persuaded him to do it—and Walsh went along. So you're friends with some of those Saudi royals, right? Have one complain that you got him to cut oil prices by 70 percent. Better yet, have the king say it's all because of your brilliant strategy on Iraq. At this point, blood for oil would at least be something for blood.

■ **Adopt a puppy from the shelter:** It's beyond me why you didn't do this the moment the Iraq war went bad. If you're on TV with the cockerdoodle puppy you pardoned from death in some dog pound, Brian Williams can blather on about Muqtada al-Sadr all he wants but no one will hear a word because they'll be staring at the adorable puppy. Make sure the media pool gets lots of B-roll of said puppy looking sad in a cage to run against shots of you and Sparky rolling around together in the Rose Garden.

■ **Buy us flowers:** That stimulus check you sent us last summer? If felt like cab fare after a bad date. Tacky, dude, tacky. But a big bouquet can start the forgiveness process. Yes, 300 million orders of gerbera daisies aren't going to be cheap, but U.S. Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson seems to have \$350 billion he doesn't know what to do with. Plus, you'll earn dividends on speaking fees. Can't you picture Disney's Bob Iger thinking to himself, “Should we hire Bush or Bill Clinton as our keynote? Clinton is smarter and more well-liked, but Bush did send us those nice flowers.”



**EDITORIAL POLICY**

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

## The kids are alright. But their parents...

It is the prerogative of every generation of graybeards to look down the age ladder and accuse today's young of sloth, greed, selfishness—and stupidity. We hear daily jeremiads from baby boomers who wonder how kids who'd rather listen to Linkin Park and play "Grand Theft Auto III" than solve equations or read books can possibly grow up to become leaders of the world's superpower. The recent publication of "The Dumbest Generation" by Mark Bauerlein of Emory University epitomizes the genre. His subtitle—"How the Digital Age Stupefies Young Americans and Jeopardizes Our Future"—says it all.

Generational putdowns, Bauerlein's included, are typically long on attitude and short on facts. But the underlying question is worth pursuing: If the data are objectively assessed, which age-slice of today's working-age adults really does deserve to be called the dumbest generation?

The answer may surprise you. No, it's not today's college-age kids, nor even today's family-starting 30-somethings. And no, it's not the 60-year-olds who once grooved at Woodstock. Instead, it's Americans in their 40s, especially their late 40s—those born from the late 1950s to the mid-1960s. They straddle the boundary line between last-wave boomers and first-wave Generation Xers. The political consultant Jonathan Pontell labels them "Generation Jones."

Whatever you call them (I'll just call them early Xers), the numbers are clear: Compared with every other birth cohort, they have performed the worst on standardized exams, acquired the fewest educational degrees and been the least attracted to professional careers. In a word, they're the dumbest.

Obviously, we're talking averages. No one would apply the word "dumb" to Barack Obama (born in 1961) or Timothy Geithner, his nominee for secretary of the Treasury (born in the same month). Yet the president-elect himself has written eloquently about how hard it was for him and his peers to obtain a serious education during their dazed-and-confused teen years. Like it or not, Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin (born in 1964), who stumbled over basic civics facts during her vice presidential run, is more representative of this group. Early Xers are the least bookish CEOs and legislators the United States has seen in a long while. They prefer sound bites over seminars, video clips over articles, street smarts over lofty diplomas. They are impatient with syntax and punctuation and citations—and all the other brainy stuff they were never taught.

Want proof? Let's start with the long-term results of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), which is housed within the U.S. Department of Education. Considered the gold standard in assessing K-12 students, the NAEP has been in continuous operation for decades. Here's the bottom line: On both the reading and the math tests, and at all three tested ages (9, 13 and 17), the lowest-ever scores in the history of the NAEP were recorded by

children born between 1961 and 1965.

The same pattern shows up in SAT scores. The SAT reached its all-time high in 1963, when it tested the 1946 birth cohort (including such notables as Gilda Radner and Oliver Stone). Then it fell steeply for 17 straight years, hitting its all-time low in 1980, when it tested the 1963 cohort (Mike Myers, Quentin Tarantino). Ever since, the SAT has been gradually if haltingly on the rise, paralleling improvements in the NAEP. In 2005, teens born in 1988 scored better on the combined SAT than any teens born since 1956—and better on the math SAT than any teens born since 1951.

These numbers make the recent rise in SAT scores by the new Millennial generation seem even more impressive—and the early Xer low even more disappointing. With a lot more kids getting higher scores, the average SAT scores of Ivy League undergrads have jumped since the late 1970s—from 1230 to 1425 at the University of Pennsylvania, for example. Average scores for nearly all graduate exams have also been rising since the early 1990s, including the GRE, the LSAT, the GMAT and the MCAT.

Now let's turn to education and career outcomes. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Americans born from 1958 to 1962 have the highest share that has never completed high school among all age brackets between 25 and 60. They also have the lowest share with a four-year college degree among all age brackets between 30 and 60, and they're tied for lowest in graduate degrees. Pushed by their passion for enlightenment (and by their fear of being drafted for Vietnam), first-wave baby boomers became obsessive degree achievers. That drive dropped off sharply during the next 10 or 15 years. Less-degreed than their elders, early Xers represent an anomalous back-step in educational progress.

Once early Xers entered the labor force in the 1980s, the Bureau of Labor Statistics noticed something else: For the first time in decades, the share of young adults entering professions such as law, medicine and accounting began to drop. Around the same time, economists began to worry about the stagnation of median income and the decline of household assets among Americans in their 20s. Today, they're worrying about the economic stagnation of Americans in their 40s.

So what explains the smartness deficit (and the related income gap) that has tracked these early Xers throughout their lives? Some say it's demographic pressure. Early Xers were born into large families at the tail end of the baby boom, with a relatively large share of higher-order siblings (just as first-wave boomers have a relatively large share of first-borns). As they grew up, they got crowded out in the competition for parental attention, good teachers and good colleges. Later on, by the 1980s, they arrived too late to enter the most lucrative professions and the cushiest corporations, by now glut-

### By NEIL HOWE

Special to The Washington Post

*Neil Howe is the co-author of Millennials Rising and other books on generational issues.*



ted with boomer yuppies. Their only alternative was to pioneer the pragmatic, free-agent, low-credential lifestyle for which Generation X has since become famous.

Yet sheer numbers aren't the whole story. The early Xers' location in history also plays a large role. Quite simply, they were children at a uniquely unfavorable moment—a time when the divorce rate accelerated, when the media image of children turned demonic and when the "latch-key" lesson for kids stressed self-reliance rather than trust in others. By the time they entered middle and high school, classrooms were opened, standards were lowered, and supervision had disappeared. Compared with earlier- or later-born students at the same age, these kids were assigned less homework, watched more TV and took more drugs.

Most early Xers know the score. Graduating (or not) from school in the early 1980s, they saw themselves billboarded as a bad example by blue-ribbon commissions eager to reform the system for the next generation, the Millennials. Angling for promotions in the early 1990s, they got busy with self-help guides (yes, those "For Dummies" books) to learn all the subjects they were never taught the first time around. And today, as midlife parents, they have become ultra-protective of their own teenage kids and ultra-demanding of their kids' schools, as if to make double-certain it won't happen again.

Does America need to worry that this group is taking over as our national leaders? Probably not. Early Xers have certain strengths that many more learned people lack: They're practical and resilient, they handle risk well, and they know how to improvise when even the experts don't know the answer. As the global economy craters, they won't keep leafing through a textbook. They may be a little rough around the edges, but their style usually gets the job done.

Just don't tell the early Xers that today's youth are the dumbest generation. Not only is that jibe factually untrue, it also calls into question all the family sacrifices the early Xers are now making on behalf of these youth. Let Generation Jones keep the "dumbest" label. They know it fits, and they're tough enough to take it.

## As a rule, corruption knows no party boundaries

How dumb can you get?

Very (expletive) dumb, to use the vernacular favored by newly indicted Illinois Gov. Rod R. Blagojevich. With obscenity-laden bravado, Blagojevich continued to discuss new corruption schemes on his bugged phone long after receiving clear signs that he was under FBI investigation.

And how venal can you get? Apparently, very (expletive) venal. Telling cronies that he was financially strapped and tired of being governor, Blagojevich allegedly sought to get a lucrative union sinecure created for himself in exchange for political favors, held up funds for a hospital to extract contributions from its executives, wondered if he could foist his equally foul-mouthed wife onto high-paying corporate boards and tried to sell to the highest bidder the Senate seat just vacated by President-elect Barack Obama.

Blagojevich's dramatic downfall is the first big Democratic scandal story of the Obama era. Granted, Obama has yet to set foot in the Oval Office (although right now he's probably wishing that his transition headquarters wasn't in Chicago). But there was no way for Obama to completely avoid comment on a scandal involving the Democratic governor of his home state—especially when Blagojevich's downfall was integrally related to his illegal efforts to profit from Obama's success.

That's not to say that the Blagojevich scandal will hurt Obama. Based on the documents released so far, Obama is looking better than ever. In fact, it was Blagojevich's inability to corrupt the Obama camp that drove the doomed and frustrated governor to a new obscenities-per-minute record. Blagojevich saw his gubernatorial right to appoint Obama's Senate successor as an opportunity that was "(expletive) golden": A Senate seat is "a (expletive) valuable thing," he explained to an adviser. And he was willing to appoint someone he imagined Obama might favor, but only if he got

something lucrative in return. "I'm just not giving (the Senate seat) up for (expletive) nothing." Yet Obama, to Blagojevich's astonishment, expected him to do just that.

When Blagojevich realized that Obama wouldn't "pay to play," he told aides he wouldn't just "suck it up" and give this "mother-(expletive)"—the president-elect—"his senator. (Expletive) him. For nothing? (Expletive) him."

Given the context, Obama should consider it something of an honor to be called an obscene name by Blagojevich.

All the same, Blagojevich's downfall should be a cautionary tale for Democrats still basking in the reflected glory of Obama's win. It's a reminder that even at this magic moment of victory and party unity—even as the Clinton lions are lying down with the Obama lambs, and as Democratic dreams of vast infrastructure investments and a renewed commitment to international diplomacy are coming true—powerful Democrats aren't immune to human weaknesses.

Idiocy and greed aren't just for Republicans. For every Larry Craig, there's an Eliot Spitzer; for every Ted Stevens, there's a Rod Blagojevich.

In our heads, we Democrats know that. It's just that in our hearts, we don't want to believe it. Because we're the good guys, right? The ones who honed our progressive values during years in the political wilderness and who finally saw those values vindicated in November's electoral victories.

But it's precisely when a party achieves power that its members need to start worrying the most about idiocy and greed. When you're in the opposition, you're already down and out, so what difference does it make if your side's idiocy leaves you—temporarily—a little bit more down and out? And being in the opposition offers fewer patronage opportunities.

But power really does corrupt.

### By ROSA BROOKS

Special to the Los Angeles Times

*Brooks is a professor at the Georgetown University Law Center. E-mail her at rbrooks@latimescolumnists.com.*



I'm not predicting a rash of new Blagojevich-type scandals plaguing the new administration. The Obama transition team already has issued unusually stringent ethics rules, and Obama's track record of supporting tough ethics legislation (including an Illinois state ethics law) suggests that he'll continue such efforts as president.

But illegal corruption isn't the only thing Democrats should be on guard against. Gaining political power also corrupts in far more subtle ways.

Members of political majorities succumb easily to smugness and complacency, to the conviction that explaining and justifying ideas is no longer necessary, to the temptation to dismiss critics as so many irrelevant cranks. "Groupthink" is mainly a disease of the powerful and complacent, not the fractious opposition.

Never mind Blagojevich. Majorities can get very dumb indeed—and what the new Democratic majority most needs to resist are those more subtle forms of intellectual and moral laziness and corruption. For in the end, arrogance and groupthink can prove far more lethal than even the most scandalous financial shenanigans.






Just ask the thousands dead in Iraq.



Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

# The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

### Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲83 ▼75
Palau	Showers	▲86 ▼77
Yap	Rain	▲85 ▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲88 ▼78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲86 ▼75
Kosrae	Showers	▲87 ▼77
Majuro	Showers	▲84 ▼77

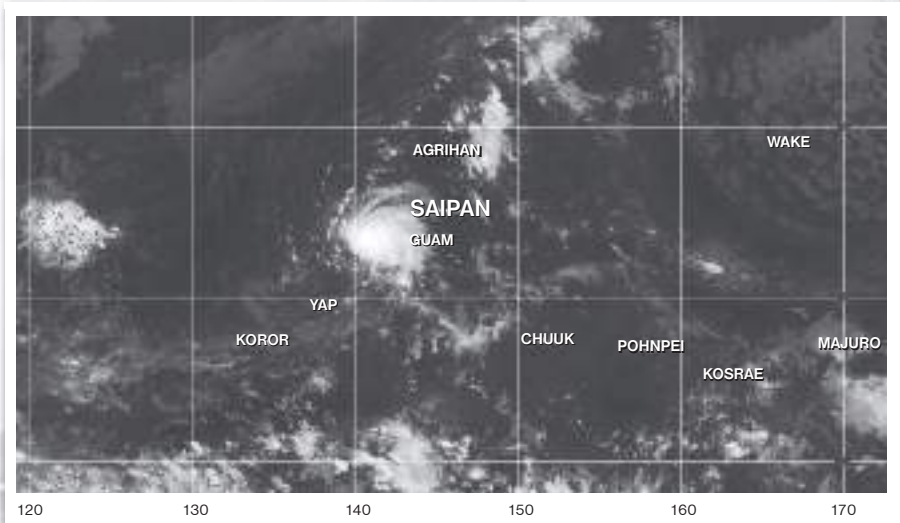
### Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲72 ▼64
Beijing	Sunny	▲34 ▼18
Hong Kong	Rain	▲74 ▼66
Honolulu	Mostly Cloudy	▲79 ▼70
London	Rain	▲41 ▼36
Los Angeles	Mostly Cloudy	▲59 ▼45
Manila	Thundershowers	▲83 ▼74
Melbourne	Rain	▲68 ▼59
Miami	Partly Sunny	▲73 ▼61
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲35 ▼28
Osaka	Sunny	▲55 ▼39
Paris	Cloudy	▲34 ▼31
Pusan	Partly Sunny	▲48 ▼25
Rome	Cloudy	▲48 ▼46
Salem	Rain/Snow	▲42 ▼33
San Francisco	Showers	▲54 ▼42
Seoul	Cloudy	▲35 ▼16
Tokyo	Dreary	▲55 ▼46
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲40 ▼28

### Tides

Saipan Harbor		
1:41AM Today	Low Tide:	0.9 Feet
8:58AM Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet
2:05PM Today	Low Tide:	1.4 Feet
6:52PM Today	High Tide:	2.2 Feet

### Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:30PM, FRIDAY, DEC. 12, 2008

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Tropical storm 27W is centered near 13N140E or about 290 miles west of Guam and moving west at 12 mph with maximum sustained winds of 40 mph. Numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring near the storm center just west of Guam between 12N and 15N from 140E to 144E. For more detailed information, see NWS advisory issued under WMO header WTPQ31 PGUM and JTWC bulletins issued under WMO header WTPN31 PGTW. A low-level trough extends northeastward from south of the Philippines through tropical storm 27W to 25N147E. Scattered showers are seen near the trough axis over Palau and Yap within 165 miles of a line from 8N133E to 12N141E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found over the northern CNMI and northeastward to west and northwest of Minamitori Shima or north of a line from 18N145E to 17N150E. A shear line enters the discussion area at 25N140E and stretches southwestward to end at 19N130E. Scattered showers are present along and out to 280 miles northwest of this feature. Converging west winds are causing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms well south of Palau and Yap near the equator or south of a line from 2N130E to 2N147E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over Kosrae and Majuro but south of Kwajalein between the equator and 8N from 161E to 173E and east of Majuro within 90 miles of a line from 6N173E to 7N180. Another shear line runs westward from 11N180 to 11N160E. Scattered showers are evident along and up to 160 miles north of this boundary.

### Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:34AM	5:48 PM
Sunday	6:35AM	5:49 PM
Monday	6:35AM	5:49 PM
Tuesday	6:36AM	5:50 PM
Wednesday	6:36AM	5:50 PM

### Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:22PM	6:52 AM
Sunday	7:31PM	7:58 AM
Monday	8:37PM	8:57 AM
Tuesday	9:39PM	9:48 AM
Wednesday	10:36PM	10:34 AM

## GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

### PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

### CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

### REQUIREMENTS

#### For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

#### For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

### HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com) or [jayvee\\_vallejera@saipantribune.com](mailto:jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com).
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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**ADVERTISING** For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: [sales@saipantribune.com](mailto:sales@saipantribune.com)

## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 19, 2008

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
<b>Saipan-Rota</b> CO9597 11:50am 12:25pm 1,7	<b>Rota-Saipan</b> CO 9598 3:25am 4:00am 5,6
<b>Saipan-Guam</b> CO9317 5:00am 5:50am Daily CO9313 8:30am 9:20am Daily CO9597 11:50am 1:20pm 1,7 via Rota CO9601 12:30pm 1:20pm 2,3,4,5,6 CO9603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily CO9605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily CO9599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily	<b>Guam-Saipan</b> CO 9316 2:30am 3:20am 1,2,3,4,7 CO9598 2:30am 4:00am 5,6 via Rota CO9596 7:00am 7:50am Daily CO9600 10:20am 11:10am Daily CO9602 2:00pm 2:50pm Daily CO9604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily CO9606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily
<b>Saipan-Narita</b> NW 099 5:00am 7:40am Daily NW 078 8:25am 1:30pm 2,3,4,5,6,7 NW 075 4:55pm 7:30pm Daily	<b>Narita-Saipan</b> NW 076 10:15am 2:40pm Daily NW 077 6:25pm 1:25am+1 2,3,4,5,6,7 NW 100 8:45pm 1:15am+1 Daily
<b>Saipan-Osaka</b> NW 083 4:30pm 7:20pm Daily	<b>Osaka-Saipan</b> NW 084 10:40am 3:10pm Daily
<b>Saipan-Nagoya</b> NW 078 8:25am 11:05am Daily	<b>Nagoya-Saipan</b> NW 077 9:00pm 1:25am+1 Daily
<b>Saipan-Incheon</b> OZ 604 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ 604 2:40am 6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7 OZ 606 3:20pm 7:00pm Daily	<b>Incheon-Saipan</b> OZ 605 9:00am 2:20pm Daily OZ 603 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ 603 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1,2,3,4,5,6
<b>Saipan-Busan</b> OZ 608 3:50am 7:20am 1,4,5,7	<b>Busan-Saipan</b> OZ 607 9:30pm 2:40am+1 3,4,6,7
<b>Saipan-Shanghai</b> FM 844 2:50am 5:40am 2,6	<b>Shanghai-Saipan</b> FM 843 7:15pm 1:50am+1 1,5
<b>Rota-Guam</b> CO 9597 12:50pm 1:20pm 1,7	<b>Guam-Rota</b> CO 9598 2:30am 3:00am 5,6
<b>Guam-Manila</b> CO 893 5:50pm 9:10pm 3,5 via Koror CO 933 8:00pm 9:40pm Daily PR 111 6:00am 7:50am 1,2,4,6,7	<b>Manila-Guam</b> CO 892 10:10pm 5:30am+1 3,5 via Koror CO 934 11:10pm 4:40am+1 Daily PR 110 10:10pm 4:00am+1 1,3,5,6,7
Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)	

## FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
<b>Guam-Rota</b>				FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 100 7:00am 7:30am Daily				FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>				FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 100 7:50am 8:20am Daily				FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>				FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 200 9:00am 9:30am Daily				FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
<b>Rota-Guam</b>				FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
FRE 200 9:50am 10:15am Daily				<b>Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**</b>			
<b>Guam-Rota</b>				FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 300 4:00pm 4:30pm Daily				FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>				FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 300 4:50pm 5:25pm Daily				FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>				FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 400 6:00pm 6:30pm Daily				FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
<b>Rota-Guam</b>				FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 400 6:45pm 7:15pm Daily				FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
<b>Saipan-Tinian</b>				FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 101 6:45am 6:55am Daily				FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 103 7:30am 7:40am Daily				FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 105 8:00am 8:10am Daily				FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 107 8:40am 8:50am Daily				FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily
FRE 109* 9:10am 9:20am Daily							
FRE 111* 10:45am 10:55am Daily							



## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.com](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.com)







# Nation

## Child remains found near missing Fla. girl's home

**ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)**—A team of medical examiners and detectives was hustling to identify the skeletal remains of a child found in a wooded lot in central Florida Thursday, hoping to solve the six-month-old mystery of a missing toddler.

Caylee Anthony, 3, has been missing since June. On Thursday, less than a half-mile from where the girl lived, a utility worker stumbled upon remains of a small child.

There was nothing that immediately indicated the remains were Caylee's. But Orange County Sheriff Kevin Beary said his investigators and the FBI would work around the clock and through the weekend to identify the child. Authorities searched the home where Caylee and her mother lived again on Thursday night, looking for more clues.

"Now the investigation continues," Beary said. "There is a lot of lab work to do. There is a lot of DNA work to do. There is a lot of crime scene work to do."

Caylee's mother, 22-year-old Casey Anthony, was indicted in October on first-degree murder and other charges,



River Allen, left, and Kalani Bowles, who say they are friends of Casey Anthony, are overcome with emotion as they arrive on the scene where the skeletal remains of a child were found in Orlando, Fla., Thursday, Dec. 11, 2008.

even without a body. She has insisted that she left the girl with a baby sitter in June, but she didn't report her missing until July.

For the past several months, Anthony's family, police and volunteers from around the country have searched for the little girl.

Lisa Hoffman, a member of the search group EquuSearch, said its volunteers were unable to completely scour the area where the remains were found because part of it was submerged in water during trips in September and November.

Deborah Smith, an independent search volunteer, said she believed the remains belonged to Caylee.

"I'm glad she was found before Christmas so they can give her a proper burial," Smith said.

Allen Moore, a spokesman for the Orange County jail, said Casey Anthony was told about the discovery. She was placed under psychological observation, not suicide watch, and remains under protective custody. Her attorney, Jose Baez, visited her at the jail for about 90 minutes Thursday.

## Pressure intensifies for Ill. governor to resign

**CHICAGO (AP)**—Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich kissed his wife, rode in his state SUV to the office and sat down at his desk Thursday behind a bust of Lincoln and an American flag to portray "a return to normalcy." It was anything but. An extraordinary drama built through the day in Chicago as the political establishment of Illinois and the nation lined up against him.



Blagojevich

Blagojevich's approval rating

dropped to an all-time low of 8 percent, and friends and foes alike feared if they don't act swiftly to get rid of him, he might commit some kind of political mischief.

"The governor is in office, and he needs to be removed from office," Lt. Gov. Pat Quinn said. "It is an urgent matter. Illinois is in crisis."

The governor showed no signs of buckling to growing demands that he quit or be removed after his arrest Tuesday on corruption

charges alleging that he tried to sell President-elect Barack Obama's Senate seat to the highest bidder.

While the governor was working—his spokesman would not say on exactly what—President-elect Obama told a news conference just a couple of blocks away that Blagojevich should go.

At the same time, Illinois lawmakers were organizing impeachment efforts, and the state attorney general said that if the governor were not impeached, she would seek a court order finding him unfit to serve.

Obama, speaking directly for the first time on the scandal that has distracted from his otherwise smooth transition, said he was "appalled" by the allegations.

"What I'm absolutely certain about is that our office had no involvement

in any dealmaking around my Senate seat. That I'm absolutely certain of," he said. "That would be a violation of everything that this campaign has been about. And that's not how we do business."

## Panel blames White House, not soldiers, for abuse

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—The physical and mental abuse of detainees in Iraq, Afghanistan and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, was the direct result of Bush administration detention policies and should not be dismissed as the work of bad guards or interrogators, according to a bipartisan Senate report released Thursday.

The Senate Armed Services Committee report concludes that harsh interrogation techniques used by the CIA and the U.S. military were directly adapted from the training techniques used to prepare

special forces personnel to resist interrogation by enemies that torture and abuse prisoners. The techniques included forced nudity, painful stress positions, sleep deprivation, and until 2003, waterboarding, a form of simulated drowning.

The report is the result of a nearly two-year investigation that directly links President Bush's policies after the 9/11 terrorist attacks, legal memos on torture, and interrogation rule changes with the abuse photographed at Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq four years ago.

Much of the report remains classified. Unclassified portions of the report were released by the committee Thursday.

Administration officials publicly blamed the abuses on low-level soldiers—the work "of a few bad apples." Committee Chairman Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., called that "both unconscionable and false." "The message from top officials was clear; it was acceptable to use degrading and abusive techniques against detainees," Levin said.

## Despite downturn, Calif. adopts tough climate plan

**SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)**—California on Thursday adopted the nation's most sweeping plan to cut greenhouse gas emissions, issuing rules that could transform everything from the way factories operate to the appliances people buy and the fuel they put in their cars.

The eight-member Air Resources Board unanimously approved the plan despite warnings it will put costly new burdens on businesses at a time when the economy is in extreme crisis, with California forecasting a staggering budget gap of \$41.8 billion through mid-2010.

Republican Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger said he believes the regulations will spur the state's economy and serve as a model for the rest of the country.

"When you look at today's depressed economy, green tech is one of the few bright spots out there,

which is yet another reason we should move forward on our environmental goals," Schwarzenegger said in a statement.

The strategy relies on 31 new rules affecting all facets of life, including where people may build their homes and what materials they use to do it.

One central piece is a cap-and-trade program, set to begin in 2012, under which power plants, refineries and big factories will be able to buy and sell the right to emit heat-trapping gases. The program could give plant operators a financial incentive to reduce their carbon emissions.

Air regulators said the average Californian could see more fuel-efficient cars and plug-in hybrids on showroom floors; better public transportation; housing nearer to schools and businesses; and utility rebates to make their homes more energy-efficient.



### ACROSS THE NATION

#### Boston commission votes to ban cigar, hookah bars

**BOSTON (AP)**—Boston officials approved some of the toughest anti-tobacco rules in the nation Thursday, extinguishing cigar bars and hookah bars and ending the sales of tobacco in pharmacies and on college campuses. The Boston Public Health Commission, however, decided to give the bars 10 years before they would have to close, doubling the original proposed grace period for the establishments. Even then, the bars could seek an extension for another 10 years. Boston is the largest city, by far, to move to outlaw smoking bars, which have been exempt from the city's

four-year-old workplace smoking ban. "As we all know, smoking is the number one cause of preventable cancer deaths in the U.S.," said Dr. Paula Johnson, chairwoman of the commission. "It's very important that we really think about what are the steps we can take to make our city as healthy as it can possibly be," she said.

#### Ind. clinic aide fired after urging patient to lie

**BLOOMINGTON, Ind. (AP)**—Planned Parenthood of Indiana has fired a health center aide who was caught on video telling a woman who claimed to be a pregnant teen to lie

about the age of the father. A member of an anti-abortion group posed as a 13-year-old and secretly shot the video at the clinic in Bloomington in June. In the footage, the woman, who is a 20-year-old student at the University of California, Los Angeles, told the aide she had been impregnated by a 31-year-old man. It also showed the aide telling the patient to seek an abortion in Illinois, where parental consent is not needed, and to lie about the man's age. Betty Cockrum, Planned Parenthood of Indiana's president and CEO, issued a statement Thursday saying the assistant violated the group's policies on reporting abuse. "While this video

was altered and edited from its original form, it is clear the actions by the employee in question were unacceptable. A thorough internal review of this matter has taken place and the health center assistant shown in the video is no longer employed by PPIN," the statement said.

#### Ark. man sentenced to die for killing former lover

**FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. (AP)**—A jury has sentenced an Arkansas man to death for fatally stabbing a college student in March. Zachariah Scott Marcyniuk (mar-SIN-ee-uk) was sen-

tenced Thursday, a day after he was convicted of murdering Katie Wood. Wood was Marcyniuk's ex-girlfriend. The 24-year-old University of Arkansas student was found fatally stabbed in her Fayetteville apartment in March. Prosecutors say Marcyniuk broke into Wood's apartment and waited for her to come home. The 29-year-old man from West Fork doesn't deny that he killed Wood, but his lawyers say the slaying didn't amount to capital murder. An after-hours call to his lawyer wasn't answered Thursday. Capital murder convictions are automatically appealed to the state Supreme Court under Arkansas law.



# Asia

## Pakistan acts vs charity tied to attacks

**MURIDKE, Pakistan (AP)**—Pakistan moved aggressively Thursday against an Islamic charity with links to militants suspected in the Mumbai attacks, freezing the group's assets, putting its leaders under house arrest and padlocking its offices.

The moves against Jamat-ud-Dawa could help convince India and the United States that Pakistan is cracking down on militants blamed for the Nov. 26-29 assaults, but it also risks igniting Muslim anger at its already shaky, secular government.

The action came a day after the United Nations listed Jamat-ud-Dawa as a front group for Lashkar-e-Taiba, which was blamed for the strikes. The U.N. also subjected Jamat-ud-Dawa to sanctions as a terrorist group, including an asset freeze,

travel ban and arms embargo.

Pakistan has already announced the arrests of 20 militants—including two alleged by India to have masterminded the attacks—and has vowed to cooperate with its neighbor.

India, which says the attacks were carried by Pakistanis as well as plotted and directed by militants in Pakistan, remains skeptical of the response so far.

Elements in Pakistan's powerful military and intelligence agencies are believed to retain links with militants, which they have used as proxy fighters against Indian rule in the disputed Kashmir region, raising questions about their willingness and ability to crack down on them.

## India moves to revamp security after Mumbai siege

**NEW DELHI (AP)**—India will create an FBI-style national investigative agency as part of a massive security overhaul announced Thursday in the wake of the Mumbai terror attacks that left 171 dead and provoked a public outcry over the government's failure to detect the plot.

"Given the nature of the threat, we can't go back to business as usual," Home Minister Palaniappan Chidambaram said in a speech to India's Parlia-

ment, adding he would "take certain hard decisions to prepare the country and people to face the challenge of terrorism."

The revamp represents the government's first detailed response to widespread public anger over security and intelligence failures in the attacks. Chidambaram has previously apologized for government "lapses" in the assault.

The new national investigation agency will coordinate with various state and local police to

analyze tips and intelligence, said Chidambaram, the country's top law enforcement official.

The government will also seek to beef up coastal security, better train local police, strengthen anti-terror laws and increase intelligence sharing.

Meanwhile, police in Mumbai backed off of plans to produce the only surviving attacker, Mohammed Ajmal Kasab, in court Thursday for a routine hearing, citing security concerns.

## French doctor says NKorean leader did have stroke

**SEOUL, South Korea (AP)**—North Korean leader Kim Jong Il did suffer a stroke but is improving, a Paris doctor told a French newspaper as the reclusive country's state-run media issued a dispatch Friday saying Kim recently toured chicken farms and collectives in the countryside.

Neurosurgeon Francois-Xavier Roux of Sainte-Anne hospital in Paris told Le Figaro newspaper that Kim suffered a stroke but did not undergo surgery as was widely reported. He said Kim's condition is improving.

Roux's account is significant

because it is the first eyewitness observation of the autocratic leader publicly available since Kim reportedly fell ill.

South Korean and U.S. officials say the 66-year-old leader suffered a stroke in August and underwent surgery. His failure to appear at a September military parade celebrating North Korea's 60th anniversary had sparked speculation about his health.

However, Roux said Kim is improving. "I have the impression that he is in charge in North Korea," he told Le Figaro in an interview published Thursday.

Roux visited Pyongyang in the end of October, Le Figaro said. The doctor declined to provide details, citing a doctor-patient confidentiality.

The doctor told The Associated Press in late October that his contacts with North Korea date back more than a decade, and most recently was in the North Korean capital in April for training and teaching.

At the time, he spoke to The AP by cell phone from Beijing, apparently en route to Pyongyang, but insisted he was not on his way to North Korea to see Kim.

to head off a government led by his opponents with a telephone address to tens of thousands of supporters Saturday. Nattawut Sia-kau, an organizer of Saturday's event, said Thaksin would accuse the powerful military and other forces of intervening and destroying the democratic process. "They are trying to fix who should be the next prime minister," he said. Thailand's Parliament is to meet Monday to elect a new prime minister, lower house Speaker Chai Chidchob announced Thursday. The Democrats claim they have enlisted enough lawmakers from other parties to form a parliamentary majority and name their leader, Abhisit Vejjajiva, the prime minister of a new government.

### 22 killed, 57 injured in Nepal school bus accident

**KATMANDU, Nepal (AP)**—A crowded school bus skidded off a bridge on a highway in southern Nepal, killing at least 20 students and two teachers, police said Friday. At least 57 others were injured. The bus was returning from a school picnic late Thursday when it plunged off the highway near Mukundapur village, about 125 miles (200 kilometers) southwest of the capital, Katmandu. Police official Len Pratap Sen said all of the students were teenagers. The 57 injured were treated at several hospitals, Sen said. An initial investigation indicated the bus was speeding, he said. Accidents are common in Nepal, where both roads and vehicles are poorly maintained and there are no speed limits on highways.

### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### Gates: More brigades to Afghanistan by summer

**MANAMA, Bahrain (AP)**—The U.S. military will pour thousands of troops into Afghanistan by next summer, and can expect to commit a sustained force for several more years, Defense Secretary Robert Gates and his top military commander there said Thursday. Visiting Afghanistan for the second time in the past four months, Gates got a short but intensive look at the leading military priority facing him and the incoming Obama administration in the coming months. Just prior to his Kandahar meeting with Gen. David McKiernan, commander of U.S. and NATO troops in Afghanistan, Gates said the Pentagon is moving to get three of the four combat brigades requested by commanders into Afghanistan by late spring or early summer. In his most specific comments to date about how soon he will meet the call for up to 20,000 more troops in Afghanistan, Gates said he will not have to cut troop levels further in Iraq to free up at least two of those three brigades for Afghan duty.

#### Anxiety over ousted Thai leader's speech

**BANGKOK, Thailand (AP)**—Thailand's opposition Democrat Party said Friday it is confident it can form a new government next week but acknowledged that a speech by exiled former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra could re-ignite political turmoil in the country. Thaksin—still powerful two years after his ouster in a military coup—hopes

# World



American soldiers inspect a restaurant after a suicide bomber blew himself up in Kirkuk, 290 kilometers (180 miles) north of Baghdad, Iraq, Thursday, Dec. 11, 2008. AP

## Suicide bomber kills 55 in Iraq resto

**BAGHDAD (AP)**—A suicide bomber killed at least 55 people Thursday in a packed restaurant near the northern city of Kirkuk where Kurdish officials and Arab tribal leaders were trying to reconcile their differences over control of the oil-rich region. The brazen attack—the deadliest in Iraq in six months—occurred at a time of rising tension between Kurds and Arabs over oil, political power and Kirkuk.

No group claimed responsibility for the attack at the upscale

Abdullah restaurant, which was crowded with families celebrating the end of the four-day Islamic holiday of Eid al-Adha. The U.S. blamed the blast on al-Qaida, which uses suicide bombings as its signature attack.

Police Brig. Gen. Sarhad Qadir, who gave the casualty figures, said the dead included at least five women and three children. About 120 people were wounded.

It appeared, however, that the target was a reconciliation meet-

ing between Arab tribal leaders and officials of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, the Kurdish party of President Jalal Talabani, on ways to defuse tension among Arabs, Kurds and Turkomen in the Kirkuk area.

Kurds want to annex Kirkuk and surrounding Tamim province into their self-ruled region of northern Iraq. Most Turkomen and Arabs want the province to remain under central government control, fearing the Kurds would discriminate against them.

## Greek-inspired protests spread across Europe

**MADRID, Spain (AP)**—The unrest that has gripped Greece is spilling over into the rest of Europe, raising concerns the clashes could be a trigger for opponents of globalization, disaffected youth and others outraged by the continent's economic turmoil and soaring unemployment.

Protesters in Spain, Den-

mark and Italy smashed shop windows, pelted police with bottles and attacked banks this week, while in France, cars were set ablaze Thursday outside the Greek consulate in Bordeaux, where protesters scrawled graffiti warning about a looming "insurrection."

At least some of the protests

were organized over the Internet, showing how quickly the message of discontent can be spread, particularly among tech-savvy youth. One Web site Greek protesters used to update each other on the locations of clashes asserted there have been sympathy protests in nearly 20 countries.

### WORLD BRIEFS

#### Russian news agencies report 9 dead in mine blast

**MOSCOW (AP)**—Russian news agencies are reporting that at least nine workers have been killed in an explosion at a mine in northern Russia. State-run RIA-Novosti cites an unidentified law enforcement official as saying three people remained missing and six others were injured by the blast Thursday at a mine in the Murmansk region. Interfax cites an unidentified emergency official as saying 12 people were killed and four injured. According to RIA-Novosti, the mine belongs to a major company that produces a fertilizer component. It cites the law enforcement official as saying the blast happened while workers were conducting controlled explosions at the mine.

#### 14 alleged Islamic extremists detained in Belgium

**BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP)**—Police detained 14 suspected al-Qaida-linked extremists on Thursday in raids in Brussels and eastern Belgium, including one militant who allegedly was plotting a suicide attack. The terror sweep came hours before a European Union summit brought together the heads of 27 countries in Brussels, though the site of the purported attack was unclear. Nearly 250 police officers raided 16 locations in the capital and one in the eastern city of Liege overnight, confiscating

computers, data storage equipment and a pistol. "There was no other choice than to intervene today," federal prosecutor Johan Delmulle told reporters. He said one suspect had recorded what looked like a martyrdom video, including a farewell message. "It is clear that we have to take the terror threat seriously," Prime Minister Yves Leterme said as he entered the EU summit building.

#### Zimbabwe's Mugabe says cholera crisis over

**HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP)**—President Robert Mugabe declared Thursday that there was "no cholera" in Zimbabwe and the country's health crisis was over, even as the United Nations raised the death toll from the epidemic to 783. Cholera has spread rapidly in the southern African nation because of the country's crumbling health care system and the lack of clean water. The U.N. said 16,403 cases have been reported. Last week, Zimbabwe declared a health emergency because of cholera and the collapse of its health services. South African authorities have declared the cholera-hit border region with Zimbabwe a disaster area as the disease spreads to other countries. At a state funeral Thursday for a ruling party official, Mugabe insisted the outbreak of the waterborne disease had been "arrested" with the help of the World Health Organization and other aid agencies.



# Maharlika

PINOY LIFE IN THE MARIANAS

Saturday, December 13, 2008

## RP idol: Lord, it's You, not me

**MANILA, Philippines**—On the day he returned from his latest boxing conquest, the “Pacman’s” schedule was as power-packed as his famed punches.

Manny Pacquiao asked Filipinos to “forget politics,” bared plans to either make a movie or record an album, dispensed tips on how to save money, vowed to finish his studies, and shared his personal thanksgiving prayer.

He capped his homecoming with a visit to his No. 1 fan, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Cheers erupted, cameras flashed and media people milled around the champion when he arrived at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 2 at 4:43 a.m. Wednesday on Philippine Air Lines Flight 103.

“I’m happy to be back. I dedicate my victory to all Filipinos,” Pacquiao said of his underdog triumph on Sunday over Oscar “Golden Boy” De La Hoya in Las Vegas.

“I’m proud to have given my country great honor. Thank you for all your support and prayers,” the “People’s Champ” said as he stepped into the airport’s Presidential Lounge.

Wearing a cream-colored jacket and jeans, Pacquiao broke into a smile upon spotting his two sons, Jemuel and Michael. He hugged and kissed his sons.

His wife Jinkee had stayed behind because she is expected to give birth to their fourth child next month.

Flanked by Environment Secretary Lito Atienza and Deputy National Security Adviser Luis “Chavit” Singson, Pacquiao was mobbed by his fans in the airport.

### Public address system

He shook hands, gave thumbs-up signs and even posed for souvenir pictures. The boxer signed a few autographs but later declined to give anymore because of his aching right hand.

Pacquiao was led to a small stage at the lounge decorated by huge banners congratulating him for his victory. He spoke on a microphone connected to the airport’s public address system.



The Philippines' boxing great Manny Pacquiao beams as he is presented with a carrot cake that is shaped like a boxing glove by President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo during his courtesy call at the Presidential Palace in Manila, Philippines, Wednesday Dec. 10, 2008.

“Thank you for praying for my victory. To all my countrymen, my victory is yours. The Lord knows it, it’s in my heart. All of us Filipinos are proud of this boxing feat. Let us unite, forget politics and focus on how to improve our lives and how to improve our nation,” he said in Filipino.

Hours after returning from the United States, he visited the Quiapo church in Manila to hear Mass amid another throng of supporters welcoming him.

Pacquiao called his victory over De La Hoya “a birthday wish come true.” Pacquiao turns 30 on Dec. 17.

Asked how he was able to defeat his opponent, he said: “In those nine weeks [of training before the match], I was able to prepare well for his strategy. I was able to use what I learned during the training.”

He added that he observed that De La Hoya appeared to “dislike” being punched on the torso. Pacquiao said he also made his head a moving target so that his taller opponent would have a hard time returning punches.

### Finish school

“Whenever he (De La Hoya) makes a jab or throws a straight punch on me, I really counter with an uppercut so that he could not punch back,” he said.

For more than half an hour, Pacquiao was interviewed over two morning television shows.

Pacquiao said he was not entertaining ideas about going to politics for the next five to six months, saying his priority is to rest and spend time with his loved ones and probably record a music album or make a movie.

He said he would continue his studies. “I want to finish school. Boxing is different. It’s not meant for a lifetime,” he said.

The boxer also shared the prayer he made at the corner of his ring following his fight: “I said, ‘Lord, it’s You and not me. You’d let me won. You helped me that’s why I won. That’s why You’re the first I have to thank. It all comes from You. I thank You.’”

By ROY LUARCA  
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

**MANILA, Philippines**—The pay-per-view figures are out and Manny Pacquiao can sit back, relax and start counting his financial bonanza that runs to about P537.6 million (\$11.2 million).

That amount, which exceeds his guaranteed purse, is the minimum that Pacquiao will get. He stands to earn more from his share of live gate receipts and merchandise sales for pulverizing Oscar De La Hoya in their Dream Match on Dec. 6 at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas.

The news on Pacquiao’s earnings from the megabucks encounter came the same day he was honored in a

rousing motorcade through Metro Manila amid a drizzle.

According to the numbers released by HBO, Pacquiao’s fight with De La Hoya on Saturday in Las Vegas generated an outstanding 1.25 million PPV buys, which, at \$54.95 per buy, translates to nearly \$70 million (P3.36 billion at an exchange rate of \$1:P48) in revenue.

Half of that amount (\$35 million) will be divided between De La Hoya, who’ll get the lion’s share of 68 percent, and Pacquiao, who’ll get 32 percent, or \$11.2 million.

Bucking the worldwide recession, the lopsided bout which ended when

the favored De La Hoya was unable to continue after the eighth round drew a packed crowd of over 15,000 at the MGM Grand Arena and became the most successful PPV event this year.

Proving the global appeal of the protagonists—De La Hoya is the sport’s undisputed top attraction and Pacquiao is the acknowledged best pound-for-pound fighter—the match became only the fourth non-heavyweight bout to breach one million PPV buys ever.

### Expectations exceeded

And De La Hoya, the 35-year-old, 10-time world champion now being urged

to retire following the worst beating of his career, had been involved in all of them, including the all-time record of 2.15 million buys and \$120 million in revenue posted when he bowed to Floyd Mayweather Jr. on May 7, 2007.

Though a star attraction himself, Pacquiao’s best PPV performance was only 405,000 buys when he wrested the World Boxing Council junior lightweight title from Mexican Juan Manuel Marquez in March.

The Dream Match, already ninth in all-time PPV hits, may yet climb a little higher up the ladder as it is expected to reach 1.35 million buys when the final

tally comes in, based on previous results.

“It (PPV buys) exceeded expectations,” Rex “Wakee” Salud, a close friend and confidant of Pacquiao, told the Philippine Daily Inquirer. “The target was just a million buys.”

With his new-found fame and his reputation as a fearless, skillful fighter, Pacquiao can look forward to more megabucks fights against other renowned boxers, like Mayweather and British superstar Ricky Hatton.

Agreeing with Pacquiao’s chief trainer Freddie Roach, Salud said he’d rather that Pacquiao battle Hatton first before tackling Mayweather, who has expressed his willingness to come out of retirement to reclaim his title as pound-for-pound king.



# Arroyo's Mindanao trip off over security

By JOEL GUINTO  
INQUIRER.NET

**MANILA, Philippines**—President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo cancelled her trip to Shariff Kabunsuan province on Friday on the advice of generals in Mindanao because of security concerns raised by roadside bombs, her press secretary said.

The disclosure by Press Secretary Jesus Dureza contradicted an earlier statement by Presidential Security Group chief Celedonio Boquiren, who said the Mindanao trip was called off to allow Arroyo to prepare for her visit to Qatar on Saturday where, among

others, she is expected to seek help for the resumption of peace talks with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

"The trip did not push through due to the Middle East trip tomorrow [Saturday]. The President has to prepare for events in the host country," Boquiren said in a statement released through Press Undersecretary Jose Capadocia.

Dureza, in an interview over state-run Radyo ng Bayan, said the advice to cancel the visit to Shariff Kabunsuan was made by Lieutenant General Armando Cunanan, head of the Armed Forces of the Philippines' Eastern Mindanao Command, and Major General Raymundo Ferrer, 6th Infantry Division commander.

sion commander.

"In spite of the insistence of the President [to go on with the trip], the security assessment was that it would be better for her sake and the country's sake that we forego her engagement [in] Sultan Mastura," Dureza said.

On Thursday morning, a roadside bomb exploded in Datu Odin Sinsuat town, where the Shariff Kabunsuan airport is located. There were no casualties.

While Dureza did not say whether or not the bombing had anything to do with Arroyo's trip, he said it still raised concerns because she and her party would need to travel by land.

Arroyo was expected at the Tapayan Elementary School in Sultan Mastura town at 11:20 a.m. It was her only official schedule that was open for media coverage for the day.

On Friday afternoon, activist organizations, civil society groups, and

religious organizations will mount a march in the Makati City financial district to denounce efforts by Arroyo's allies at the House of Representatives to amend the 1987 Constitution, which they said could extend her term beyond 2010.

## 3 miners die in Compostela rockfall

By FRINSTON LIM  
INQUIRER MINDANAO BUREAU

**TAGUM CITY**—Three small-scale miners were hit by falling rocks and died during a soil erosion in a mining village in Compostela town in Compostela Valley province late Wednesday afternoon, police said on Thursday.

Senior Supt. Ronald dela Rosa, provincial police director, identified the fatalities as Johnny Gonzales, his 20-year old son Jamil, and Julius Gevera.

Dela Rosa said the incident took place in Purok 25 in Sitio (sub-village) Bango of Barangay (village) Ngan at 4:30 p.m.

The victims and several other miners were trying to divert water from a creek when its top portion gave way, sending rocks crashing down on them, Dela Rosa said.

Local officials told the Inquirer (parent company of INQUIRER.net) by phone that the accident happened during an incessant downpour in the area.

Dela Rosa said residents and policemen from the Compostela municipal police station, led by Insp. Ali Dampac, conducted search and rescue operations and later dug up the bodies of the victims.

Crude mining methods, like placer mining, are common in most parts

of gold-rich Compostela Valley. The province is said to hold huge deposits of gold.

Placer mining involves the recovery of gold particles in deposits of sand and gravel in streambeds.

But even this type of mining, as opposed to tunneling, does not guarantee the safety of miners.

Last month, seven people died when an avalanche of rocks and mud cascaded down a mountain in a mining village near Mt. Diwata in Monkayo, Compostela Valley.

Landslides have also occurred in other gold areas in the province, where miners and their families have built homes on mountainsides despite warnings by authorities of potential hazards.

Early this year, two miners were killed when the tunnel they were working in collapsed, following a minor landslide in Araibo village, Pantukan town.

The deadliest landslide to have hit the province in recent years happened in September, when a portion of a mountain in Maco town fell on Barangay Masara.

The rain-induced landslides buried most of the village, killing at least 26 persons, including the village chief, and injuring dozens of other residents.



## PORK EXPORTS SUSPENDED

A worker roasts a row of pigs locally known as "lechon" at a roast pig store and restaurant in Manila's Quezon city, Philippines, Thursday, Dec. 11, 2008. Pigs in three Philippine hog farms have been found infected with the Ebola Reston virus, a strain not harmful to humans, officials said Thursday. As a precaution, Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap said all pork exports have been suspended until further notice.

AP

# Senate junks move to amend charter

By CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO  
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

**MANILA, Philippines**—Even if only five senators—all eyeing the presidency in 2010—will join Friday's multisectoral rally against Charter change, the entire Senate Thursday unanimously approved a resolution opposing the move of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's allies in Congress.

Senators Manuel Villar Jr., Loren Legarda, Francis Escudero, Manuel Roxas II and Panfilo Lacson—all potential presidential contenders in the 2010 election—are expected to join the rally Friday to be spearheaded by Catholic Church groups in Makati City.

But all 23 senators signed the resolution "expressing the sense of the Senate that any attempt by the House of Representatives to unilaterally propose amendments to, or revision of, the Con-

stitution without the approval by three-fourths of the Senate voting separately is unconstitutional."

"This sends the strongest message yet that the Senate stands united against attempts by allies of the President in the lower house to subvert the Constitution for dubious ends," said Sen. Francis Pangilinan, who introduced the measure.

The National Capital Region Police Office said 5,000 policemen would be deployed to ensure a "safe and peaceful" rally in Makati.

'Let's stop foolishness'

"Let's stop all this foolishness," Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales said in a statement released by his office Thursday, voicing the sentiments of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) on moves in the House to convene a constituent assembly (Con-ass).

Former Presidents Corazon Aquino and Joseph Estrada are expected in the rally.

Also joining the rally are the Association of Major Religious Superiors of the Philippines, Makati Business Club, Former Senior Government Officials, Concerned Citizens Movement, Bangon Pilipinas, Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan), United Opposition (UNO), Edsa 3 Coalition, Black and White Movement, Nacionalista Party, Liberal Party, Pwersa ng Masang Pilipino, Be Not Afraid Movement and Integrated Bar of the Philippines.

"We plan to end the year united in a common cause and determined to stop the Cha-cha express dead in its tracks. This is just the first action and hopefully not the last," said Renato Reyes, secretary general of the leftist group Bayan.

of Tony Reyes' house and opened fire. Reyes is the publisher of the weekly Southern Leyte Times. Reyes and his family were asleep in their house, which doubles as the paper's office, when the attackers came past 3 a.m. The bullets went through the house's glass door and into a room occupied by Reyes, said SPO4 Abraham Lummen of the Maasin police. Investigators found a .45 cal. shell outside the house and a slug in the dining room. (Inquirer.net)

## Bomb explodes on eve of Arroyo's visit

**COTABATO CITY**—An improvised explosive device (IED) planted by the roadside in Crossing Awang in Datu Odin Sinsuat, Shariff Kabunsuan exploded Thursday, the eve of

President Macapagal-Arroyo's visit to the province. Lt. Col. Julieta Ando, spokesperson of the Army's 6th Infantry Division, said no one was injured in the 8:30 a.m. explosion. But Ando could not say if the bomb had something to do with Ms Arroyo's arrival in the province Friday to visit troops involved in the manhunt against rogue Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) rebels. Ando said the IED—fashioned out of three mortar shells—was concealed in a bag and was remotely set off. However, Ando said the two other mortar shells that made up the IED failed to explode and were detonated later by military bomb experts. He said no one has claimed responsibility for the bomb but he did not rule out the involvement of MILF rebels. (Inquirer.net)

## LABOR FRONT

## IRs of FAS citizens, permanent residents

By FERDIE PONCE DE LA TORRE  
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

**Q: Is the entry permit of an immediate relative of a citizen of a Freely Associated States renewable for one year?**

**A:** If the sponsoring alien is a citizen of a Freely Associated State, the entry permit shall be valid for a period of one year. According to the CNMI Immigration Rules and Regulations, the entry permit shall be renewable as long as the sponsoring alien continues to maintain citizenship in a Freely Associated State and continues to reside in the Commonwealth.

■ ■ ■

**Q: If the sponsoring citizen of a Freely Associated State has been away from the CNMI for more than a year, what will happen to the IR's entry permit?**

**A:** The CNMI Immigration Rules and Regulations state that if the sponsoring alien has been out of the CNMI for more than a year, the Immigration Director shall not renew the entry permit of the immediate relative without a showing of reasonable cause for the extended absence from the Commonwealth such as military service or medical treatment.

■ ■ ■

**Q: What will happen to the immigration status of the alien spouse of a U.S. citizen or permanent resident when their marriage is terminated**

**by a court decree?**

**A:** The Regulations state that in the event a marriage is terminated by judicial decree, the alien has a grace period of 60 days to either change to a different lawful immigration status or depart the CNMI.

IRs of persons who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents of the CNMI may enter and remain in the Commonwealth for one year so long as the IR status is in effect, the U.S. citizen or permanent resident meets the qualifications as a sponsor of the alien, and all other qualifications are met.

The application for an IR entry permit shall be filed not earlier than 60 days following the marriage and during the period in which the alien has a lawful immigration status in the CNMI.

*Disclaimer: Readers should conduct their own research and due diligence and obtain professional legal advice. Saipan Tribune will not be liable for any loss or damage caused by a reader's reliance on information obtained from this section. Submit questions on labor issues to Saipan Tribune via e-mail at editor@saipantribune.com, or by calling 235-6397, 235-2440, or 235-8747 and leaving a message at Ext. 133 or 135. You may also submit questions in person by writing it down and dropping it off at the Saipan Tribune's office on the second floor of the CIC Centre on Beach Road, Garapan.*

## PHILIPPINE BRIEFS

### 2 Marines die in 'accidental' blast

**ZAMBOANGA CITY**—Two Marine soldiers died in a grenade explosion Thursday night in Comalig village, Tipotipo, Basilan, a Navy official said Friday. Commodore Alexander Pana, naval forces commander in Western Mindanao, said details of the incident were still sketchy but he was told it was "plain accident," discounting reports of an attack by Moro rebels. (Inquirer.net)

### Gunmen attack Leyte publisher's house

**MAASIN CITY**—Gunshots roused from sleep the publisher of a weekly paper and his family here early Thursday in another apparent attack on journalists. Police said unidentified gunmen on a motorcycle drove in front



# Peso gains strength on back of remittances

By DORIS DUMLAO  
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

A surge in foreign exchange remittances from overseas Filipinos ahead of the holidays lifted the peso toward the 47-per-dollar level against the first time in about two months.

The peso closed on Thursday at its intra-day high of 47.78 to the dollar, gaining a hefty 0.47 from Wednesday's finish at 48.25.

The recent strengthening of the peso, along with the wave of interest rate cuts across the region, may prompt the central bank, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), to cut its overnight borrowing rate by 25-50 basis points at its next rate-setting meeting, on Dec. 18, according to a new commentary of investment bank UBS.

BSP Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo said remittances from overseas Filipinos were boosting foreign exchange

EXCHANGE RATES	
DOLLAR	PESO
\$1.00	= P47.7

inflows and supporting the peso. "The favorable outturn in inflation is also a big factor in the stronger performance of the peso against the US dollar," he said.

The market is now confident that inflation is on the wane after peaking in August, and welcomes the deceleration to single-digit levels ahead of expectations in November, Guinigundo said.

The volume of trading on the currency sport market surged to \$747.0 million from \$613.5 million on Wednesday.

Most other currencies in the region also rose relative to the US dollar, as offshore investors started picking up bargains among the region's stocks, currencies and bonds, dealers said.

Philippine share prices closed 0.3 per-

cent lower Thursday on heavy selling in index heavyweight Philippine Long Distance Telephone (PLDT), dealers said.

The composite index fell 5.7 points to 1,933.12. However, the all-shares index rose 0.7 percent to 1,224.68 points. There were 51 gainers against 37 losers, and 47 stocks closed unchanged.

The stock trading volume rose to two billion shares worth P2.13 billion.

"What accounted for the big drop in the composite index was the big move on PLDT," said George Ching of Citiseconline. PLDT, which accounted for 25.7 percent Thursday's turnover value, fell 4.6 percent to P2,175.

"There isn't any negative news that drove PLDT lower," Ching said. "But in recent weeks, it has rebounded. So it is more of profit-taking in PLDT than any company-specific news that came up." (With Agence France-Presse, INQUIRER.net)



## BANK HOLIDAY

A government employee from the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation, left, answers inquiries from depositors of the closed Rural Bank of Paranaque Thursday, Dec. 11, 2008, in Paranaque, south of Manila, Philippines. The bank, established in 1957 and with over 37,000 deposit accounts, was placed under receivership by the Philippine Central Bank after it declared a bank holiday Monday. The bank was the first to close since the global financial crisis.

AP PHOTO/BULLIT MARQUEZ

## SM to open the Philippines' biggest mall

**MANILA, Philippines** (AP)—The largest mall in the Philippines and third biggest in the world opened in Manila on Friday, following completion of a six-floor expansion, amid hopes that domestic spending will cushion the effects of a global economic slowdown.

The new floors make the existing complex, SM City North Edsa, the third largest globally with 4.5 million square feet (425,000 square meters) of shops, food courts and supermarkets under one roof, said operator SM Prime Holdings Inc.

It is part of conglomerate SM Investments Corp., owned by the country's richest man, Henry Sy. The opening "amidst serious global challenges ... speaks of how we view the longer-term prospects of the country," SM Prime President Hans Sy said in a statement.

Domestic spending, fueled by billions of dollars sent back home by millions of overseas Filipino workers, accounts for about 70 percent of the Philippines' annual gross domestic product.

The economy grew 4.6 percent in the

third quarter, slumping from 7.1 percent last year, after being "damaged but not quite ravaged" by the global financial crisis, the government said last month.

SM Prime said the new annex will employ close to 3,000 people.

The mall's area surpasses that of Mall of Asia, which was the world's third largest when it opened on the shores of Manila Bay in 2006.

According to Forbes magazine, two of the world's biggest malls are in Dongguan and Beijing, China.

## Smart unveils service to rival Skype

**MAKATI CITY**—Smart Communications is launching a PC-to-mobile service targeted at Filipinos abroad and cheaper than rival Web-based applications, such as Skype and Yahoo! Messenger, officials said.

Called Plug N Text, the product comes in the form of a USB thumb drive pre-loaded with a "softphone"

application developed by Smart.

Similar to Skype or Yahoo! Messenger, the software allows PC-to-PC and PC-to-mobile (or PC-to-landline) calls as well as SMS (short messaging service).

The product, though, uses an ordinary SIM card which can be reloaded with credits similar to a mobile phone.

The entire kit—including the SIM, headset and 1Gigabyte of hard drive—costs P1,800 or about \$40.

PC-to-mobile calls to Smart subscribers costs P7.50 per minute and P8.50 per minute to non-Smart numbers. Local SMS charges (one peso per SMS) apply for local numbers and P15 per SMS to international numbers.

## PERSONAL FINANCE

### Guide to safe online Christmas shopping

*Editor's Note: This is a partnership between INQUIRER.net and Citibank to help readers handle their personal finances well.*

**Question: Christmas is just a few weeks away and I haven't done any shopping! I have to admit the thought of elbowing my way in department stores and malls makes me dizzy. I am considering an easy way to shop right in the comfort of my home: online shopping. My friends recommend it but I wonder if it is safe. What precautions should I take? — Nap Y.**

**Answer:** Thanks to the blossoming of e-commerce on the Internet, a lot of goods and services otherwise available in real shops are also available for orders online. You can order food, clothes, shoes, bags, sports items, books, flowers, cakes, home items, antiques, software, cellphones, and more with just a click of the mouse. And if you can't decide what to buy for someone, you can even order gift certificates or donate to charities online in his name.

The beauty of shopping online is you can do it anytime, anywhere as long as you have Internet connection. No more waiting for the mall to open, no more racing to get a parking spot, no more lugging around huge and heavy shopping bags in a kilometer-long mall. It's also easy to compare prices by just hopping from one website to another. Once you order online, you can also have your items delivered, and in some cases, gift-wrapped and delivered to the person you're giving the gift too. If you're based abroad, you may even place an order to have your gift delivered to an address in the Philippines.

Many Filipinos have already discovered the ease and pleasure of shopping online. There are generally two ways to shop online: order from websites that sell products or offer gifts such as amazon.com for books or regaloservice.com, or bid for products up for auction in sites like ebay.ph.

Here's a simple guide on how to shop online and do it safely:

1. Browse and transact with established websites. In the same way that you would go to a store with a good reputation, patronize websites that are known to be reliable and, as much as possible, have a physical address they indicate in the site. Ask friends for referrals, and check the "About Us" portion of each website. Some sites have feedback mechanisms; check the feedback from customers.

2. Read the fine print for directions on ordering or bidding. Once you have chosen an item, find out how you can place your order or bid. Then do so only when you have the intent to really buy the item once the order is confirmed or you have won the bidding.

3. Read the vendor's policy on returns, refunds and cancellations. For gadgets and software, see if the vendor offers after-sales support and warranty.

4. Before placing an order or bid, check if the website is secure. Look for a padlock icon on the lower right hand corner of your screen. Check the web address to see if it begins with "https" rather than "http." These safeguards ensure that your transactions will not be seen by hackers except for the vendor. Give your correct billing address and delivery address and go over it to check for typographical errors before sending the information.

5. Once you have made your order, the vendor should confirm your order by e-mail. Print this out. If you made a bid on an auction site, monitor the auction in the coming days. If you have won, the seller should contact you by e-mail. Print this out as well. Do not click attachments ending with ".exe" though. This may be a virus as vendors would not send you a program by e-mail.

6. Pay for the item and cost of delivery. In some sites, credit card payments are the norm. Others run by young entrepreneurs require bank deposits, mobile wallet payments and cash on delivery. Credit card payments may be the best alternative as you can avail of the card company's help if the product is defective and you need to get a refund, and you can be assured that your payment will reach the vendor safely. You can also file a dispute if you have been charged incorrectly. Print out a copy of your payment record.

7. Once the items are delivered to you or your designated recipient, see if they are in good condition as promised. If not, contact the vendor.

8. Leave feedback on the website for the benefit of other would-be online shoppers. Comment on whether the goods arrived on time as promised and in good condition.

A note about credit card payments: You will only have to input your credit card number and expiry. Be wary if you are asked to provide your Social Security number or your mother's maiden name.

In case your instincts tell you something's off, don't continue with your transaction. Trust your instincts.

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# Maharlika – PinoyStyle

## Singer Didith Reyes found dead in shanty; 60

By **POCHOLO CONCEPCION,**  
**MARICAR CINCO**  
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU

**MANILA, Philippines**—In her prime, Didith Reyes was “a goddess on stage,” says the composer of her signature song, “Bakit Ako Mahihiya.”

And so it came as a shock to Reyes’ friends and fans when the sultry siren, best known for a string of love ballads and sensual performances in the 1970s and ’80s (including a wardrobe malfunction that well predated Janet Jackson’s), was found dead practically a pauper at a friend’s ramshackle home in Biñan, Laguna, Wednesday morning.

The original Jukebox Queen, whose hits have remained videoke staple to this day, was 60.

Without a Didith Reyes starting a trend, the likes of Claire de la Fuente, Imelda Papin and Eva Eugenio might not have risen to pop stardom.

Reyes, Helen Sta. Maria in real life, apparently died of a heart attack, De la Fuente told the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

“Her pancreas ruptured, parang binangungot,” said De la Fuente, who had been asked by Vic del Rosario, former head of Reyes’ now defunct record label, Vicor Records, to take charge of Reyes’ wake and funeral.

Senior Supt. Manolito Labador, Laguna police director, said Reyes was found lifeless inside the house owned by Derly Antolin in Barangay Sto. Domingo at around 5 a.m. The house was a patchwork of plywood and sheets of tin, located on the edge of a middle-class neighborhood.

In her statement to the police, Antolin said Reyes had been staying in her house for the past three days.

Reyes showed up at her door on Sunday with bruises on her face and body, saying she had been sideswiped by a vehicle, Antolin said. The following Tuesday, Reyes asked Antolin to buy her anti-acid tablets for her stomach ache.

Before rising to stardom as a solo artist, Reyes was as one of the vocalists in Time Machine and Circus Band, which



In her prime, Didith Reyes was “a goddess on stage,” says the composer of her signature song, “Bakit Ako Mahihiya.”

were wildly popular in the 1970s.

Her contemporaries in Time Machine included Celeste Legaspi and Anthony Castelo; Circus Band’s other famous members were Basil Valdes, Hajji Alejandro, Tillie Moreno, Pabs Dadivas and Jacqui Magno, among others.

### Femme fatale

In 1975, Reyes recorded the single “Araw-araw, Gabi-gabi,” a song about sexual longing, which became a huge hit and eventually inspired a movie.

More hit singles followed: “Nananabik,” “Bakit Ako Mahihiya,” “Hatiin Natin ang Gabi,” “Hindi Kami Damong

Ligaw”— which established Reyes as a Jukebox Queen whose femme fatale image sent temperatures rising among the male population.

“Bakit Ako Mahihiya” became her signature song.

She became the talk of the town after she accidentally exposed a breast while singing “Nananabik” at the Famas Awards rites in 1977.

That same year, she won the Gold Prize and the Best Performer Award in the Tokyo Music Festival. She sang a Japanese song and bested Morris Albert who sang his own composition, the now pop classic “Feelings.”

## Igorots pay last respects to Marky Cielo

**BAGUIO CITY, Philippines**—Igorot rights advocates, public school teachers and ukay-ukay (used clothes) vendors turned out to pay their last respects to young actor Marky Cielo whose remains were brought to this city on Wednesday, as a stopover before his burial in his hometown in Bauko, Mountain Province.

Mourners from the cross-section of Cordillera society indicated Cielo’s impact on indigenous communities of the north.

Unlike other Igorots in the movie business, Cielo alone symbolized the assertion of indigenous Filipino identity when racist attacks about his Igorot heritage consumed him during the third season of GMA 7 network’s talent search show “Starstruck.”

Online Igorots and communities from the highland provinces buried the telephone lines with text messages to ensure that Cielo was not voted out of the TV game, because of the racist attacks. Cielo became “the ultimate sole survivor”



Marky Cielo was found dead by his mother inside his room at their Antipolo residence last Sunday morning.

in 2006, as a result of the controversy.

About 600 people received Cielo’s remains when they arrived from Antipolo at the Church of Resurrection here.

Rev. David Tab-oy officiated mass for the young actor while 13 Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) members volunteered to control the crowd for Cielo’s family.

Cielo’s mother is from Mt. Province, so his remains will be brought to the village of Sinto of Bauko town there at dawn on Thursday. The family has not announced his burial date.

At the wake, Cielo’s cousins sang “Tears in Heaven.” Members of the Saint Louis University dance troupe danced an improvised ballet for him at the altar. Cielo was taking up architecture at SLU before he joined Starstruck.

Cielo was found dead by his mother inside his room at their Antipolo residence last Sunday morning. The family has not revealed to the public the cause of death, although an autopsy was reportedly conducted by the Rizal provincial Scene of the Crime Office. (PDI)

“She was everyone’s fantasy,” entertainment writer and former record label executive Aster Amoyo told the Inquirer.

“Grabe ang appeal niya (She had such a huge appeal). At that time, it seemed like she was the epitome of the pop singer as [a] luscious woman.”

Reyes’ debut album, “Didith,” was a multi-platinum seller, Amoyo recalled.

### A la Judy Garland

“She had a distinct voice that made her stand out from other singers of her generation,” said Pablo Vergara, who wrote “Bakit Ako Mahihiya.”

“She was the perfect singer, beautiful, sultry. She was like a goddess on stage,” De la Fuente said.

“Didith was a good person. When her career was still okay, she would often surprise me with gifts, like fresh fish,” said talent manager Norma Japitana. “I helped discover her.”

“Her life was classic tragic show biz, a la Judy Garland. Men were running after her. She had a thriving singing career,” Japitana added.

Another friend, who asked that she be identified only as Minda, remembered Reyes as a “beautiful” woman who would wear cheap accessories yet make them look like “expensive jewelry.”

“Although many people were say-

ing bad things about her, I know I knew her better as a person,” Minda said.

Minda wondered why some of Didith’s friends in show business came when she died but never showed up during the time Didith needed them.

### Downward spiral

Reyes’ decline, Amoyo noted, began in 1978 when she became unprofessional.

“She did not show up at performances. What I know is that at the height of her popularity, she would throw a flat iron [at people who displeased her]. But she was very kind when she was not in a foul mood. She was the type of person who was easy to love,” Amoyo said in Filipino.

Amoyo said she barely recognized Reyes during a meeting set up by a friend at a coffee shop in Greenhills, San Juan City, two years ago.

“Para akong nalusaw sa itsura niya (I almost fainted when I saw her). She had aged physically, she had gained weight, she was limping due to a wound on her foot and she smelled badly,” Amoyo recalled.

The Didith Reyes of her prime, who reportedly had an insatiable sexual appetite and had affairs with prominent businessmen, club owners and politicians, eventually went on a downward spiral. She got hooked on drugs and alcohol.

## RUSHES

### Back-stabbing directors caught in act

By the Inquirer Entertainment Staff

Actor-politico was joined by two critics, Upstart Director 1 and 2, in viewing the trailer of his latest starrer.

With little provocation, UD1 lambasted the movie, which was the work of an Award-Winning Director. UD2 joined in, questioning AWD’s choice of camera angles.

After badmouthing AWD, UD1 and 2 pitched their own projects to AP.

The upstarts’ vicious remarks soon reached AWD who was naturally hurt because he thought they were his friends.

### Man that got away

Ages ago, Gay Billionaire parted with a seven-figure amount so Model-Actor could buy jewelry for his mom.

During a party, GB noticed that the necklace and earrings that Female Model was wearing looked familiar.

Turned out MA, gave the gems to FM, not mom! Heartbroken, GB dumped MA.

GB has learned his lesson and now keeps his heart out of sight. He will not pay higher than P60,000 for a one-night stand. “He’d go up to P100,000 if he really likes the boy,” says a source. GB’s current favorites are moreno basketball players who look eerily like MA, the man that got away.

### They said what?

Brad Pitt, on his hatred of talking about Angelina Jolie and their six children: “It seems to get cheapened somehow as it goes through the filters and the airwaves—and some

things you just want to keep close to the chest.”

Tom Hanks, eager to attend US president-elect Barack Obama’s inauguration: “I’ll sit on the Lincoln steps and just watch it from the distance on a Jumbotron. I’ve never been to anything like that, and—finally—a guy I voted for won.”

### Top of the tabloids

The top show biz stories in local tabloids this week. (And why we are moved, if we are moved.)

### Season of snobs

■ Sam Milby, nilinaw ang isyung inirapan niya sina Kris Aquino at Ruffa Gutierrez. (Those who care, show of hands, please.)

■ Cristine Reyes, imbyerna pa rin sa GMA! (Another show of hands, please.)

■ Heart Evangelista, aagawin ang korona ni Marian Rivera. (Uh, among korona raw?)

■ Will Devaughn, hindi type si Marian. (There’s always Dingdong.)

### Spot the error

■ Matagal na akong walang sex!—Ai Ai delas Alas. (Baka gender.)

■ Ai Ai, magiisang taon nang walang ‘dyug’? (Ah, hindi gender.)

■ Cristine Reyes at Dennis Trillo walang-wala na raw talaga! (Poverty-stricken?)

■ Patrick Garcia nakikiusap kay Jennylyn Mercado na ipakita ang kanilang anak! (Ho-hum.) (Bandera, Tumbok)



# Maharlika – Opinyon

## EDITORIAL

### Welcome for a hero

A colossal welcome awaited Manny Pacquiao in tribute to his colossal win over boxing legend Oscar de la Hoya. A man who has never shrunk from enthusiastically demonstrating gratitude to patrons, past and present, Pacquiao can be expected to share the limelight not only generously but enthusiastically.

But sooner, rather than later, the party will be over. And Pacquiao's thoughts will eventually turn to where various patrons and patrons-in-waiting want those thoughts to turn: to public service. Specifically, to politics, whether as endorser-campaigner, or candidate for office. This early, we entreat him to resist political temptation.

Pacquiao's achievements have been fully his own, as far as boxing is concerned. His becoming a sports hero has led not only to riches, but also has won him the incomparable affections of an entire nation. That success and that affection are his because of how he unites a nation otherwise divided and discouraged by politics.

No one can doubt that Pacquiao is looking for a career that will not just give meaning to his life after boxing, but which will also allow him to help others as so many have helped him rise from rags to riches through sports. The question is not whether he can or should try to be a force for public good, but whether the public good is served by his entering politics.

His dogged determination, his dedication to his sport, his discipline and his ability to improve himself, all the while maintaining a sunny disposition and picking no quarrels with people outside the boxing ring, suggest to us that the greatest good for the greatest number lies in Pacquiao staying out of the political arena. He is a political force by sheer force of being who he is—the man who unites—and staying that way.

No one, regardless of where they are in the political, partisan divide, begrudges him his affections for certain politicians. He can freely dispense endorsements for candidates as he endorses products; the people can cheerfully ignore such endorsements without damaging his standing or the affection in which he is held. No one, though, wants to see the day when a nation he united divides on the question of his candidacy for office.

Think of the tremendous—and formidable because unstoppable—good Pacquiao could achieve if he became not only an ambassador of goodwill for our country overseas, but of progress, harmony, and self-improvement within our national borders. Instead of being yet another has-been, a Bong Revilla or a Lito Lapid, languishing in impotent ridiculousness in our legislature, he could be barnstorming the country getting kids to study, to read, and to save. He could be everybody's friend, instead of just another face in Congress.

The law fully qualifies him for Congress. But that is not the point. The point is that the man who has done us all so proud has better things to do than to take sides. He has already risen above national and social divisions, and he should stick to the high road instead of going down the low road.

© Philippine Daily Inquirer

## Damaged institutions protect damagers

The most lasting legacy of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, the Philippines' equivalent of George W. Bush, is the destruction of our institutions of government. She took the elaborate system of checks and balances in our Constitution post-EDSA People Power and perverted them to cover up, stonewall and frustrate every attempt by citizens to hold her accountable. In the words of the UN special rapporteur on extrajudicial killings (and his words can very well apply to Ms Arroyo's claims on anti-corruption): "[T]he accountability mechanisms ... [o]n paper, they remain strong. In practice, they are of all too little use, and often this is the result of official design."

Ms Arroyo has short-circuited the constitutional design. Billions of pesos lost, yet the culprits remain unpunished. It is already tiring to go down the ever-growing list: the Armed Forces controller whose family had \$100,000 in undeclared cash (and we would have looked the other way had it not been for the US Customs authorities); the "euro generals" with 105,000 euros in travel funds (again unreported, had it not been for the Russians); the \$329-million national broadband network deal with ZTE Corp. of China (almost forgotten, but for star witness Jun Lozada); the P500,000 in cash given by a Malacañang lawyer to Jun Lozada when Lozada was about to testify against Arroyo (from my own private funds, the lawyer claimed, and purely out of the goodness of my heart); the NorthRail scam (exposed by the Senate, but almost forgotten but for ZTE); the P.5 million loot bags given away to the governors inside Malacañang during a breakfast meeting with the President ("Not from us!" they said); the P.5 million bags given away to the congressmen a few days later (I can't even recall the explanation here); and now the P728-million fertilizer fund diverted to her presidential campaign.

Witness the mockery before the anti-graft court Sandiganbayan as it dismissed the robbery and graft charges against Ms Arroyo's first secretary of justice, Hernando Perez. A controversial \$470-million hydroelectric contract was frozen during the Joseph

Estrada years for concerns that it was disadvantageous to the Philippines. Ms Arroyo was sworn in as president in January 2001 after a popular uprising against corruption, and in a few days, Perez signed on. By August 2003, the Swiss government finally got the Philippines government to cooperate with its investigation of Swiss bank accounts set up by Perez and whom the Swiss suspected of money laundering.

Yet, it took the Office of the Ombudsman until late 2008 to charge Perez for robbery, extortion and graft. By November, the Sandiganbayan threw out the charges because, come to think of it, the Ombudsman was too slow in filing the charges against Perez! In other words, Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez, who was Perez's former deputy in the justice department, dragged her feet in prosecuting her former boss. And now it is precisely that delay that justifies dismissing the case altogether. (Worse, the Sandiganbayan found that some of the charges had been defectively written, and that it failed to complete the "factual/material allegations" needed for them to prosecute Perez under the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act.)

And we haven't even discussed the wanton killings of Bayan Muna activists and of journalists. In the words of the UN special rapporteur, the government is in a "state of almost total denial ... a passivity bordering on an abdication of responsibility by the government."

So who stands to lose if the constitutional term limits are maintained? For President Arroyo, it means that in 2010 she will lose her head-of-state immunity under international law and her presidential immunity under national law. She will have to answer for all her liabilities, not before an impeachment body where congressmen are for sale, but before the courts where, hopefully, the judges will no longer be afraid of incurring presidential ire.



### Passion For Reason

By RAUL PANGALANGAN  
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Worse, she will lose her access to funds, public or private, with which to keep the loyalties of her former minions. Sure there must be some loose change left over from all those scandals. But just as surely she has seen the congressmen dump their former capo, the fallen House speaker Jose de Venecia upon whose political carcass his former lieutenants feasted after he fell out of grace with the Palace.

Surely Ms Arroyo has seen how former presidents all over

Asia have been charged and jailed: in South Korea, Chun Doo-hwan and Roh Tae-woo (for human rights violations and bribery); in Taipei, Chen Shui-bian, his wife, son, daughter-in-law and brother-in-law (for using "discretionary state funds", diverting campaign funds, and money laundering); in Thailand, Thaksin Shinawatra and his wife (for conflict of interest, for running the government agency from which his wife bought real estate).

The only bright star for Ms Arroyo is Indonesia, where Suharto with an estimated \$1.5 billion to \$35 billion in ill-gotten wealth (internationally, the record high) was merely placed under house arrest and eventually acquitted. His son Tommy was convicted for having arranged the killing of a judge who had sentenced him to jail for a land scam, but Tommy is now free on "conditional release." Another son Probosutedjo was convicted for a \$10-million scam, but got his sentence reduced (through \$600,000 bribes to the judges, which he himself admitted!). It was only this year that the government sued to recover \$440 million in stolen public funds plus \$1.1 billion in damages from the Suharto family. In other words, they continue to profit from the institutions they debased.

For the Suhartos and Arroyos, damaging republican institutions is a continuing investment.

Comments to [passionforreason@gmail.com](mailto:passionforreason@gmail.com).

## Historical research made easy

One of the ironies of my life is that I have to read for a living. I have to read old books and documents for work, but I am allergic to book dust. There are many kinds of dust in our daily lives, and I have to be allergic to the very source of my livelihood.

Nobody pinpointed the cause of the polyps that grew in my sinuses until I had endured seven operations. Aside from surgery, there were other solutions like steroids that everyone warned me was bad for the health and could help me grow breasts. Then there were antihistamines that made me sleep all day. And there was the use of a cotton face mask that made me look weird in a library or archival reading room.

One of my specialists once went over Jose Rizal's medical notebooks and showed me a polypectomy Rizal performed when he was a student. Naturally, I wanted to know if Rizal would have cured me if he was my attending physician. To cut a long story short, the surgery was successful but the patient expired seven hours after the operation. I was told Rizal used a procedure slightly different from that in his textbooks, and if the patient survived to tell the tale then that operation would have gone down in medical history, and would probably have been known as the "Rizal procedure" or something. I would like to think medicine and human knowledge progress when someone succeeds by doing something a different way—but just don't be the casualty.

The other irony aside from being allergic to book dust is that as a Filipino historian, I have to do research on Philippine history in libraries and archives abroad. So much material awaits Filipino researchers in the United States and Spain. I am sure there is more elsewhere: in Mexico, China, Japan, and even in a place like Santiago de Chile where a bibliographer assembled an important collection of Philippine books at the turn of the 19th century.

The great thing about living in the 21st century

is that many materials are now available in formats that do not produce dust. Historical materials and books have been digitized and made available on CD, like the 55-volume compilation of documents from 1492-1898, "The Philippine Islands," compiled by Emma Helen Blair and James Alexander Robertson. The original volumes may be rare collector's items today but the Bank of the Philippine Islands made this available in CD and I am told it even has a rather elementary search engine.

Other important sources, like the volumes of translated travel accounts called "Filipiniana Book Guild," are now available in CD. I am glad I did not push through with my plan ages ago to have my library reproduced on microfiche, which would have made whole library fit in a shoe box and therefore, portable and safe, except that the microfilm reader was unwieldy. Now that CDs are available, I don't think I will need to wait very long to store these in an iPod.

The Internet is such a wonderful source of historical material, if you know where to look. There is so much of interest there aside from porn. Many libraries have their catalogues open and searchable online, so you can locate a book even before you make a visit to the place. Sometimes that book can even be made available online.

There is a site called "Project Gutenberg," which has so many rare and out-of-print Philippine titles available online. These can be downloaded for free, like the classic Derbyshire translations of Rizal's "Noli me tangere" and "El Filibusterismo" and the most complete illustrated biography "Life Lineage and Labors of Jose Rizal" by Austin Craig.

Much more comprehensive and important for scholarly research is the University of Michigan



### Looking Back

By AMBETH OCAMPO  
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

website that has a dedicated place for "The United States and its Territories." Michigan has a lot of Filipiniana in its museum, library and archives and its most important books have been digitized and placed online. All the early dictionaries of Philippine languages compiled by Spanish friars are available: Tagalog, Ilocano, Visayan, etc. Books that are not available except in specialized libraries in Manila can be consulted and downloaded for free.

Last but not least is the US Library of Congress that has a dedicated page called "American Memory," which dwells on US history. Just type "Philippines" in the search box and so many items come out: books, pamphlets, photographs, including early films of Thomas Edison on the Filipino-American War. There is no excuse for a history or social science teacher these days to be ill-prepared for class. All it takes is some curiosity and drive. The Internet has made the world a smaller place, and scholars can search libraries half the world away and get material free or for a small fee. One only has to spend a lot of time searching.

I spend hours on the Net looking for historical materials on the Philippines and can only marvel at the march of technology. Now I do not have to worry about my allergy to book dust, and research abroad can be maximized if I check catalogues and download materials before a trip. Historical research is much easier today than it was in the time of the historians Teodoro Agoncillo and Renato Constantino, but then as Agoncillo used to complain, "There are very few workers in the Filipiniana vineyard."

Comments are welcome at [aocampo@ateneo.edu](mailto:aocampo@ateneo.edu).



# Maharlika – Samu’t Sari

## POLO GRADUATION



REY BELGADO

Basic computer operation graduates pose with Philippine Consul General Wilfredo DL Maximo after the POLO graduation ceremony held Dec. 6 at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan.



REY BELGADO

Members of the Philippine Overseas Labor Office, Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, and the Philippine Consulate General pose with Consul General Wilfredo DL Maximo after the POLO graduation ceremony held Dec. 6 at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan.



REY BELGADO

Officials and staff of the Philippine Overseas Labor Office, Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, and the Philippine Consulate General during the graduation ceremony held Dec. 6 at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan for the new graduates of POLO's basic computer operation class.

## FIRST BIRTHDAY



Jared Teagan Aguon celebrated his first birthday at the Claret Fiesta Resort and Spa last Saturday, Dec. 6, 2008. In picture, from left, are Das Krishnan, Fiesta F&B Manager, with guest Jean Sablan, the birthday celebrant, and his mom, Verlyn Aguon.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Jared Teagan Aguon poses with a Special guest Superman (Chris Fizer, Fiesta Sport and Recreation Manager), poses with Jared, his mom Verlyn, and older brother Trevor.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Jared Teagan Aguon with dad Ray and mom Verlyn Aguon with brother Trevor.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## Death Announcement

### Juan Deleon Guerrero Manalo

September 14, 1946 - December 11, 2008

*This is to inform the Relatives, Friends and Family of Ana Deleon Guerrero Manalo and Juan Materne Manalo, That their son Juan Deleon Guerrero Manalo had passed away on Decemeber 11th, 2008.*

*Daily Mass is being offered at San Vicente Church at 6:00 p.m., followed by Rosary after Mass.*

*His last respects and burial will be announced on a later date.*

*Your presence and prayers is highly appreciated.*

*Thank you very much.*

#### Anuncio Finatai

*Para umanafan manuhgo I Parientes, Atungo yan Familian Ana Deleon Guerrero Manalo yan Juan Materne Manalo, na matai i lahen niha as Juan Deleon Guerrero Manalo, gi Decembrie dia 11, 2008.*

*I misana guato gi gima yuus San Vicente gi oran alas 6:00 p.m. gi pupuenge, despues di misa utinatiyi ni lisayuna.*

*I malagnosna yan enteruna siempre uma nununsia despues.*

*I finaton miyo yan tinayuyut miyo masen agradese ginen I familia.*

*Si Yuus Maase*





# Youngstyle

## From puzzles to princes, our top video game picks

By TOM HAM  
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

KidsPost knows that many of your holiday wish lists include video games, so we asked game expert Tom Ham to pick his favorites for the season. Many of these games have online components, but always ask an adult before playing on the Internet.

**Lego Batman**  
Platform: Xbox 360, PlayStation 3, PlayStation 2, PlayStation Portable, Wii, Nintendo DS and PC  
Rating: Everyone, age 10 and up  
Price: \$30-\$60

Details: Everyone's favorite Caped Crusader is back, this time in the Lego world. In this game, based on the popular comic book rather than the recent movies, players must capture the escaped foes from Arkham Asylum, including the Joker, the Penguin and Poison Ivy. With the help of his trusty gadgets and his pal Robin, Bat-

man swiftly brings justice to Gotham City.

**LittleBigPlanet**  
Platform: PlayStation 3  
Rating: Everyone  
Price: \$60

Details: What may look like a typical game proves to be much more than meets the eye. Players solve puzzles while controlling adorable characters called Sackboy and Sackgirl as they interact with their environment. You can play alone or with friends. Creative minds can design their own levels.

**Mario Kart Wii**  
Platform: Wii  
Rating: Everyone  
Price: \$50

Details: Mario Kart is back, and it's better than ever. With the Wii Wheel (included with the game), racing is now more fun. Just place your Wii-mote in it and you're off. With 16 new courses and 16 classics from previous Mario Kart editions, there is more than enough here

to keep the most seasoned racer busy.

**Mirror's Edge**  
Platform: Xbox 360, PlayStation 3 and PC  
Rating: Teen  
Price: \$50-\$60

Details: Set in the not-too-distant future, Mirror's Edge puts players in the role of a "runner," a person who transmits messages while evading government surveillance. Played from the first-person perspective, this action adventure has you running, jumping, vaulting, climbing and grabbing your way through obstacles and sticky situations.

**Naruto: The Broken Bond**

Platform: Xbox 360  
Rating: Teen  
Price: \$60

Details: Picking up where Naruto: Rise of a Ninja left off, the Broken Bond is a brilliant action adventure that lets you play through the popular anime series. Not only will you explore the world of Naruto, but you will also engage in one-on-one battles against enemies using your powers and special abilities. The story is rich and the action exciting.

**NBA Live 09**  
Platform: Xbox 360, PlayStation 3, PlayStation 2, PlayStation Portable and Wii  
Rating: Everyone  
Price: \$30-\$50

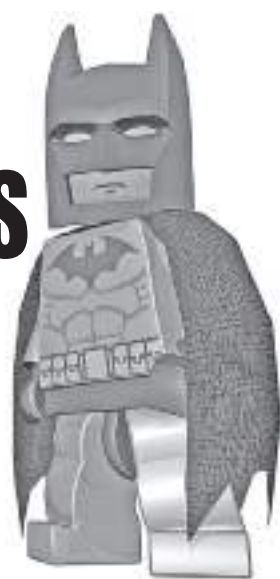
Details: Want to take it to the hoop? With EA Sports' latest, you can make use of Dynamic DNA, which analyzes players and teams from their real-life stats and affects the way they play in your game. New pick-and-roll controls let you set up screens and run two-man plays much easier.

**Prince of Persia**  
Platform: Xbox 360, PlayStation 3 and PC  
Rating: Teen  
Price: \$50-\$60

Details: When the Tree of Life is destroyed by evil forces, it's up to the prince and a new ally, Erika, to help bring peace and harmony back to the land. Fans of the series will notice the game has gone in a different direction. No more Sands of Time; instead players must rely on quick reflexes and acrobatics to battle foes.

**Pure**  
Platform: Xbox 360, PlayStation 3 and PC  
Rating: Everyone

- Stand-alone game, \$60
- Bundle (with instruments), \$190



THE WASHINGTON POST

KidsPost knows that many of your holiday wish lists include video games, so we asked a game expert to pick his favorites for the season. From left, Lego Batman (based on the comic book not the movies); Sackgirl, from the LittleBigPlanet puzzle game; and the ninja from Naruto: The Broken Bond.

### Video Games Fact

(c) 2008, The Washington Post

Ninety-nine percent of boys and 94 percent of girls in their teens play video games in the United States, according to a recent survey.

Price: \$30-\$60

Details: Who would've thought that ATV (all-terrain vehicle) racing would be this much fun? From the beautiful tracks to the responsive controls, this is what racing games should be all about. With a unique trick system, it's unlike anything you've played before. As you race through 30 tracks, you'll unlock new ATVs and performance upgrades.

**Skate It**  
Platform: Wii  
Rating: Everyone  
Price: \$50

Details: Using cool new "Flickit" controls, players can execute real-world skateboarding moves with their Wii-motes. Simple gestures mimic moves you can do on a skateboard such as ollies and jumps. Still not satisfied? Get the Wii balance board (sold separately) and perform tricks as if you were on a real skateboard.

**Super Smash Bros. Brawl**  
Platform: Wii  
Rating: Teen  
Price: \$50

Details: This is the third installment of the popular Nintendo fighting game Super Smash Bros. Among the 35 playable characters, all of your favorites are here, including Mario, Zelda, Samus, Pikachu and Donkey Kong. Players can battle in 41 stages.

## Lance and other comeback kids

By FRED BOWEN  
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

Lance Armstrong has announced that he is hopping on his racing bike and making a comeback. Armstrong is the legendary cyclist who won the Tour de France, the grueling bike race that covers more than 2,200 miles through France, an amazing seven straight times, beginning in 1999.

Armstrong won the seven races after he almost died of cancer in 1996. So Armstrong knows something about comebacks.

Still, I'm not sure that even as great an athlete as Lance Armstrong can do this. After all, he is 37 years old. That's old for a world-class cyclist. And Armstrong has not competed in the Tour de France since 2005. Of course, as anyone who has ridden a bike knows: Once you learn to ride a bike, you never forget.

But sports comebacks are tricky. Even the greatest athletes sometimes fail.

Michael Jordan may be the greatest basketball player ever, but he's also proof that great athletes don't always make great comebacks. Jordan quit basketball in 1993 after winning three NBA championships to try professional baseball. He found out that hitting a curveball was harder than hitting a jump shot. So he returned to the Chicago Bulls, won three more NBA titles and retired again.

After Jordan's second retirement, he came back to play for the Washington Wizards. Jordan was not a big hit in his second comeback. The Wizards never came close to winning a championship.

The same thing happened when the Washington Redskins' three-time Super Bowl-winning coach, Joe Gibbs, tried to return to the game after retiring. Gibbs got the Redskins to the playoffs, but in the four years that he coached the team after his comeback, they had a regular-season record of only 30 wins and 34 losses.

Still, some athletes make incredible comebacks. Swimmer Dara Torres won three silver medals at age 41 in the 2008 Summer Olympics after taking several years off and having a baby. Hockey player Mario Lemieux battled back from cancer, like Armstrong, to win the National Hockey League's scoring title in 1993. Super Mario later retired but came back again and played well enough to be an all-star.

Other great athletes simply choose to walk away from their sport. Jim Brown of the Cleveland Browns is perhaps the greatest running back in the history of the National Football League. Brown led the NFL in rushing yards eight of the nine seasons he played. In his last season, Brown ran for 1,544 yards and scored 21 touchdowns in 14 games. He was at the top of his sport. But Brown retired at age 29 after the 1965 season and never played again.

If Lance Armstrong can win an eighth Tour de France, that would be one of the greatest sports comebacks ever. It's a huge challenge, but Armstrong doesn't seem to mind challenges.

*Fred Bowen writes sports novels for kids.*



THE WASHINGTON POST

More top video game picks: From left, Skate It, in which players execute real-world skateboarding moves with their Wii-motes, and Mirror's Edge, which puts players in the role of a "runner," a person who transmits messages while evading government surveillance.

## Rock Band 2 vs. Guitar Hero World Tour

By TOM HAM  
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

Need to unleash your inner rock star? Two games will fight to win your (or your parents') hard-earned dollar: Rock Band 2 and Guitar Hero World Tour. Which one is better? It's a close call with these Teen-rated rockers.

Rock Band 2 is the follow-up to last year's huge hit. An enormous selection of tracks (84), excellent downloadable content (albums) and improved instruments (the guitar feels better in your hands) make this a solid buy. However, we were hoping for an improved drum set. (It's still very loud when you play.) Plus the new Tour

mode can get a little tedious.

Guitar Hero World Tour is our favorite this holiday season. What sold us were the excellent instruments. The six-piece drum set has three pads, two elevated cymbals plus a bass pedal, and the guitar has cool slide buttons on the neck, adding a new gameplay style to guitar riffs. The library has 86 songs, and there's a host of downloadable content. Either way, it's time to get your rock on.

Prices for Rock Band 2 and Guitar Hero World Tour on Xbox 360 and PlayStation 3 platforms:







## Life &amp; Style

## 'Benjamin Button, 'Frost/Nixon, 'Doubt' lead Globe noms

By DAVID GERMAIN  
AP MOVIE WRITER

**BEVERLY HILLS, California** (AP)—The Academy Awards picture cleared up a bit Thursday as "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button," "Doubt" and "Frost/Nixon" led with five Golden Globe nominations apiece.

The Oscar fate of the year's biggest film, "The Dark Knight," remains uncertain, though, with the Batman blockbuster earning only a single Globe nomination, supporting actor for Heath Ledger.

"Benjamin Button" and "Frost/Nixon" earned Globe nominations for best drama, along with "The Reader," "Revolutionary Road" and "Slumdog Millionaire."

Brad Pitt was among dramatic-actor nominees for his role as a man born old and aging backward in "Benjamin Button," as was Frank Langella as Richard Nixon in "Frost/Nixon." The others were Leonardo DiCaprio for the domestic drama "Revolutionary Road," Sean Penn for the Harvey Milk saga "Milk" and Mickey Rourke for the sports-comeback tale "The Wrestler."

"Revolutionary Road" reunited DiCaprio with his "Titanic" co-star Kate Winslet, who had two nominations, best actress for that film and supporting actress for "The Reader."

DiCaprio declined to predict his own Oscar prospects when those nominations come out Jan. 22. But he had a firm opinion about Winslet, who has had five past Oscar nominations without winning.

"I think it's been her time for a long time. To me, she's the most-accomplished actress of her generation. I loved working with her," DiCaprio said. "To finally do another movie together after looking for one for so long does feel really special."

Joining Winslet among dramatic-actress nominees were Anne Hathaway for "Rachel Getting Married," Angelina Jolie for "Changeling," Meryl Streep for "Doubt" and Kristin Scott Thomas for "I've Loved You So Long."

Besides Streep, "Doubt" had three other acting nominations, in supporting categories for Philip Seymour Hoffman, Amy Adams and Viola Davis.

The Globes traditionally help sort out the potential Oscar field, particularly in years such as this, when no solid favorites to win have emerged.

"The Dark Knight" initially had been viewed as a major contender for Ledger and in technical categories, but its buzz for best picture, director Christopher Nolan and other top prizes swelled as the season wore on. While the Globes

## Golden Globe surprises and snubs

**BEVERLY HILLS, Calif.** (AP)—It's not as if any huge shockers emerged from the Golden Globe nominations Thursday. "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button," "Doubt" and "Frost/Nixon" lead the field with five apiece, which makes absolute sense—they're all polished, starry, classic awards-season fare.

But still, there were a few surprises and snubs:

**A DARK DAY FOR "THE DARK KNIGHT"**

Heath Ledger was the only nominee from the blockbuster Batman saga, deservedly receiving a posthumous supporting-actor nomination for his riveting turn as the Joker. It's something we all expected, but director Christopher Nolan's epic actioner has been earning awards buzz across the board, with talk that it could even find itself among the best-picture contenders at the Academy Awards.

**ALONG THOSE LINES**

Sean Penn was the only nominee from "Milk," being duly recognized for his richly charismatic depiction of gay politician and civil rights leader Harvey Milk, who was shot to death in 1978. Again, this is one of those movies that has been considered a front-runner all along for top awards; the New York Film Critics Circle chose it as the year's best this past week.

**I COULDN'T HELP BUT WONDER**

How did the "Sex and the City" get shut out entirely? The hugely anticipated screen version of the trendsetting HBO series made \$153 million in the United States, and its splashy crowd-pleasing nature would seem to make it a natural at the Globes. But it didn't get nominated for best comedy, for star Sarah Jessica Parker or for any of the supporting per-

generally overlooked it, it remains a critics' choice as one of the year's best.

The Globes are chosen by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, a small group of about 90 reporters for overseas outlets. Oscar nominees are selected by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, a collection of about 6,000 filmmakers, actors and other industry professionals.

"The Dark Knight" has something to impress every voting branch of the academy: heroic themes, soaring drama, splashy visuals and action, grand dialogue and terrific performances, led

manes from Cynthia Nixon, Kim Cattrall or Kristin Davis. The red carpet just got a little less glamorous.

**DOWN AND OUT DOWN UNDER**

Despite its ambition, wide scope and striking imagery, "Australia" continues to be a letdown. Baz Luhrmann's homage to romantic adventure film, starring Nicole Kidman and Hugh Jackman, also failed to get a single nomination from the Hollywood Foreign Press Association. It's gotten mixed reviews and has only made about \$32 million since its Nov. 26 opening.

**GET OFFA HIS LAWN**

Clint Eastwood received nominations for his score and the original song he co-wrote (and sang a bit in) for "Gran Torino," which isn't a big surprise. A longtime jazz lover, he's been writing the music for his films for many years, and previously was nominated for a Golden Globe for "Million Dollar Baby." But best-actor buzz has been building for his funny, roaring performance as a cantankerous bigot who battles the violence in his Detroit neighborhood, and he was left out of that race Thursday.

**ALWAYS A BRIDESMAID**

Michael Sheen unfortunately was overlooked again, despite consistently providing solid work opposite showier performers in splashier roles. Two years ago, it was as Tony Blair in "The Queen," in which Helen Mirren reigned supreme. Now, it's as David Frost in "Frost/Nixon," for which his co-star, Frank Langella, received a best-actor nomination as Richard Nixon.

**A LITTLE HUMOR**

Smaller movies dominated the best comedy or musical category, between "In Bruges," "Happy-Go-Lucky" and "Vicky Cristina Barcelona." Even "Burn After Reading," with its superstar cast including Brad Pitt and George Clooney, has a quirky Coen brothers aesthetic. The ABBA-centric "Mamma Mia!," the other nominee, was the only traditional choice.



This photo released by DreamWorks Animation SKG Inc., shows a scene from "Kung Fu Panda." The film was nominated for a Golden Globe for best animated feature film on Thursday, Dec. 11, 2008.

by Ledger's remarkable reinvention of Batman foe the Joker.

Oscar nominations come on the one-year anniversary of Ledger's death last January from an accidental prescription-drug overdose.

"This nomination is deeply appreciated and is not lost on those of us who continue to love and miss him," said father Kim Ledger in a statement on behalf of the actor's immediate family. "We are so proud that our boy's work is being recognized in this way."

Other nominees were gushing about Ledger's performance, too. Terrence

Howard, who helped announce Globe nominees, said he thinks Ledger will win the Globe and Oscar.

"I remember while Heath was still with us, there was incredible talk," said Colin Farrell, a musical or comedy acting nominee for "In Bruges." "It's not just recognition in a posthumous sense, not just the frenzy surrounding the circumstances of his death. That nomination makes sense and was incredibly expected and highly anticipated."

Tom Cruise and Robert Downey Jr. were nominated as supporting actor for "Tropic Thunder." Each played odd roles:

Cruise was nearly unrecognizable as a psychotic movie mogul in a bald cap, beard and fat suit, and Downey played a white actor who undergoes a skin-tinting procedure to play a black man.

The Harvey Milk film biography "Milk" had been near the top of awards watchers' lists but only grabbed an acting nomination for Penn. And one of the year's biggest comedy hits, "Sex and the City," was shut out completely.

Clint Eastwood had two music nominations for his "Changeling" score and for co-writing the title song for "Gran Torino," part of which he also sang. But he missed out on directing nominations for both films and for an acting slot in "Gran Torino."

The animated hits "WALL-E" and "Bolt" had two nominations apiece, for best animated picture and best song, the "WALL-E" tune co-written by Peter Gabriel and the "Bolt" song co-written by Miley Cyrus, who also lent her voice to one of the film's lead characters.

Besides her "Doubt" nomination, Streep picked up another for musical or comedy actress for the hit "Mamma Mia!," which also is competing for best picture in that category. The other contenders for best musical or comedy are smaller movies: "Burn After Reading," "Happy-Go-Lucky," "In Bruges" and "Vicky Cristina Barcelona."

"Happy-Go-Lucky" star Sally Hawkins capped a big week of Hollywood honors with a Globe nomination for best actress in a musical or comedy. Over the previous two days, Hawkins was chosen as the year's best film actress by both the Los Angeles Film Critics Association and the New York Film Critics Circle.

Hawkins was riding in a taxi in London when she got the Globe news in a cell-phone text from her mother.

Playing an eternal optimist whose upbeat outlook is put to the test, Hawkins was the latest relatively unknown British actress to rise to Hollywood awards status courtesy of filmmaker Mike Leigh. His past films, "Secrets & Lies" and "Vera Drake," earned Oscar nominations for his stars.

"It's not a hugely budgeted movie, it's not plot-driven or an action movie or a big blockbuster," Hawkins said. "He's interested in character, in character actors. It just makes it even more special that it comes from a tiny, tiny place in the world."

As for her Oscar chances: "That still feels a million miles away," Hawkins said.

## 'In Bruges' emerges as unlikely Globes contender

Though "In Bruges" was released in February—an eternity away from the fall premieres of most awards-seeking films—the Colin Farrell film emerged as an unlikely contender at the Golden Globes.

"In Bruges" scored three nominations from the Globes on Thursday, including best picture for a musical or comedy and dueling best actor in a musical or comedy nominations for Farrell and his co-star Brendan Gleeson—a first for each.

Written and directed by playwright Martin McDonagh, the film received good but mixed reviews, and grossed less than \$8 million at the U.S. box office. In it, Farrell and Gleeson play hit men laid up in the picturesque and quaint town of Bruges, Belgium.

"It had been brought to my attention by people that it was a possibility, a dark-horse possibility, for getting some recognition, but I really, really didn't expect it," Farrell said

Thursday. "It had been released in the early part of the year, it didn't do huge money, it wasn't seen by that many people. But it's a testament to (McDonagh's) writing in his film debut that it obviously struck a chord with them."

Speaking by phone Thursday from London, Gleeson—recognized by many as Alastor "Mad-Eye" Moody from the "Harry Potter" films—said he was surprised at his nomination and the attention to "In Bruges."

"It's a matter of total mystery to me how all of this happens," said Gleeson. "But it's absolutely fantastic that the film has a life."

The movie's Golden Globe success may have been partially indebted to its Anglo-Irish production and Belgian setting. The Globes nominees are selected through the slightly European perspective of the Hollywood Foreign Press Association.

"In Bruges" also fared well with the British Independent Awards, where

it was nominated for six awards and won for best screenplay.

Though Globes success can often spell good things for a film's Oscar prospects, that's unlikely in this case: Unlike the Academy Awards, the Globes split films between dramas and comedies, giving comedies more attention.

It's debatable how much of a comedy "In Bruges" is—it's at least as dramatic as it is comedic. But Gleeson, chuckling, makes one thing clear: "It's not a musical!"



# Chris Brown named artist of the year by Billboard

**NEW YORK (AP)**—The accolades keep coming for Chris Brown—this time, he's been named Billboard's top artist of 2008.

"It's bigger than what I can ever imagine. It's unexpected totally, so it's a surprise," Brown said in an interview Thursday.

It shouldn't be too much of a surprise for Brown. He not only nabbed the Billboard honor in 2006, he had a great '08, with solo hits like "With You" and "Forever" as well as success-

ful collaborations, like the Jordin Sparks duet "No Air." Last month, he won three awards at the American Music Awards, including artist of the year.

But the 18-year-old Brown says he's still not used to all the accolades.

"I've had a good year but I still feel like a little insecure in those parts. I'm like, 'There's little ol' me get-

ting an award'—that's incredible," he said.



Brown

The artist's rankings are determined by album sales as well as digital downloads, radio airplay and Internet streams. The No. 2 artist was Lil Wayne, who had a huge year thanks to hits like "A Milli" and "Lollipop"; No. 3 on the list was Rihanna, whose hits included "Take A Bow" and

"Disturbia," which was co-written by boyfriend Brown.

Rounding out the top five were Alicia Keys and Taylor Swift.

Billboard named Flo Rida's "Low" as the year's top song, followed by Leona Lewis' "Bleeding Love," Alicia Keys' "No One," Lil Wayne's "Lollipop" and "Apologize" by Timbaland featuring OneRepublic. Brown had three songs in the top 10: "With You," "Forever" and "No Air" with Sparks.

## Jennifer Aniston poses nude on January cover of GQ magazine

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Jennifer Aniston wears a tie—and nothing else—on the January cover of GQ magazine. The 39-year-old actress strips down and shows off her toned body next to the headline: "Is it just us or is Jennifer Aniston getting hotter?"

Joking about the relentless media coverage of herself, ex-husband Brad Pitt and Pitt's partner Angelina Jolie, Aniston tells the magazine: "The funny thing is that people don't realize we all go away to the Hamptons on the weekends."

Not exactly. Says Aniston: "But can you imagine? That'd be hysterical: I've got Zahara on my hip, and Knox ..."

As for Jolie's past remarks about falling for Pitt on the set of "Mr. & Mrs. Smith," Aniston says: "No daggers through the heart. I laugh. Am I surprised? ... Considering the source, nothing surprises me."

This image provided by GQ magazine shows actress Jennifer Aniston on the cover of the magazine's January 2009 issue.



### ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

#### Culkin's sister killed after struck by car

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Police say Macaulay Culkin's sister Dakota Culkin was killed after she stepped in front of a car in west Los Angeles. Police spokesman Richard French says Dakota Culkin was struck Tuesday night after she stepped into the street. She died a day later at a Los Angeles hospital after suffering massive head injuries. French says there is no active criminal investigation. Police say the driver stopped and tried to help the 29-year-old. Officers determined the motorist wasn't driving drunk and followed all laws. Macaulay Culkin's spokeswoman, Michelle Bega, said it was a "terrible tragic accident" and the family had no further comment. The 28-year-old actor starred in the "Home Alone" films.

#### Usher welcomes second son

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Usher has gotten an early holiday gift—a second son. The 29-year-old singer and his wife, Tameka, are celebrating the birth of Naviyd Ely Raymond. The infant arrived early Wednesday, weighing 5 pounds, 13 ounces. A

statement from the couple released Thursday read: "Tameka and the baby are doing fine." This is the second child for the couple, who were married in August 2007. Their first boy, Usher Raymond V, was born last November. Tameka Raymond has three children from a previous marriage.

#### Kate Walsh's husband files for divorce

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—"Private Practice" star Kate Walsh is getting divorced after a year of marriage. The actress' husband, Alex M. Young, filed for divorce in Los Angeles on Tuesday. His petition cites "irreconcilable differences" but offers no further details. The pair married September 2007, and the documents say they separated Nov. 22. The couple have no children together. The 41-year-old actress is the star of the "Grey's Anatomy" spin-off "Private Practice" on ABC. Young is a top-ranking executive at 20th Century Fox. The pair released a joint statement through the publicists saying the split was amicable and that Walsh and Young remain friends. The breakup was first reported on a Web site for "The Insider" TV show.

## Freeloader takes advantage of colleague's helping hand

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

**DEAR ABBY:** Four months ago, a guy I know from work asked if he could stay with me for a few weeks until he finished saving for his own apartment. Two weeks later he was fired from his job. When I told him he could stay, I said I wouldn't charge him rent, but that he would need to buy his own food, toiletries, etc. He did at first, but has since started helping himself to mine.

I have a 7-year-old son who lives with me, and I was recently laid off from my job. I am now living off savings and unemployment, and things are tight.

Abby, this guy isn't even looking for work. All he does is sleep all day and watch TV. Not only that, he tries to dictate what shows I watch and even turns the channel in the middle of a show when I go to the bathroom. How can I get this freeloader out of here?

AT MY LIMIT IN GRAND HAVEN, MICH.

**DEAR AT YOUR LIMIT:** This man will not leave until you insist upon it. Remind your "houseguest" that he was supposed to stay with you for only a few weeks, the "visit" is now over, and it's time for him to relocate. Do not expect gratitude for the hospitality you have extended, and you will not be disappointed.

If he is not out by the date you set, get some friends together to pack his things for him and put them outside. And if he gives you any trouble, call the police.

■ ■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** I am a senior in high school, and my friends and I are all looking at different colleges. I have one friend whose parents are all about deciding what is right for him and won't let him make the final decision as to where he should go. They believe that choosing a college is all about connections and what careers make the most money.

Shouldn't my friend be able to pursue his dream of becoming a writer and attend the college of his choice? Should his parents be able to make the decision about where he should go?

FRYEBURG, MAINE, SENIOR

**DEAR SENIOR:** Theoretically, your friend should be able to make his own choice about what career he will pursue and what college he will attend. However, if his parents are paying for his education, he will have to abide by their rules.

The question is, what is your friend willing to sacrifice in order to pursue his dream? If he's willing to work and take out loans for his education, there is nothing stopping him.

■ ■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** My sister has two grandchildren, whom I adore. I would like to take them places and do things with them, but my sister, who has a severe weight problem and is unable to walk, won't let me unless I'm willing to push her around in her wheelchair and take her, too.

I feel bad for the kids because they rarely get to do anything. I have thought about going around my sister to their mother, but it would probably make my sister mad. The children's mother has little money, and the father is not in the picture. Do you think I can justify putting the kids before my sister?

GREAT-AUNT WHO CARES IN THE MIDWEST

**DEAR GREAT-AUNT:** Your mistake was in allowing your sister to make those children part of a package deal in the first place. You should not exclude her permanently, but there is no reason why she must be included on every excursion. By all means talk to their mother.

*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*

*To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)*

## Report: Del Toro won't make another film in Mexico

**MEXICO CITY (AP)**—"Hellboy" director Guillermo del Toro says he is unlikely to make another film in Mexico because his father's kidnapping 10 years ago left him fearing for his safety, a newspaper reported Thursday.

Del Toro's father was eventually released, but the family says it later received death threats.

Del Toro said he does not feel safe directing films here because his daily routine becomes public.

"Not all of the people who participated in the kidnapping were captured," El Universal newspaper quoted him as saying.

He described his situation as a "forced exile" and said it saddens him to think he may never film again on Mexican streets.



# Pastimes

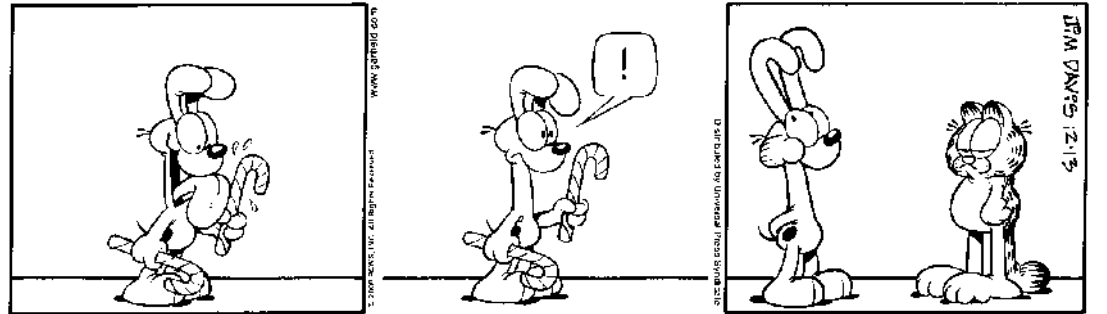
## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



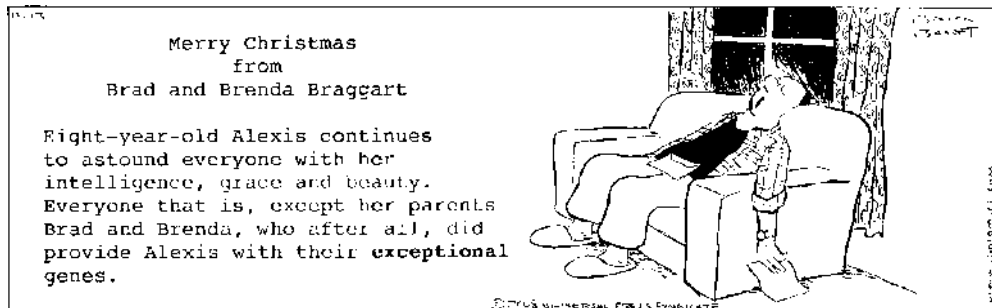
## Garfield®

By Jim Davis



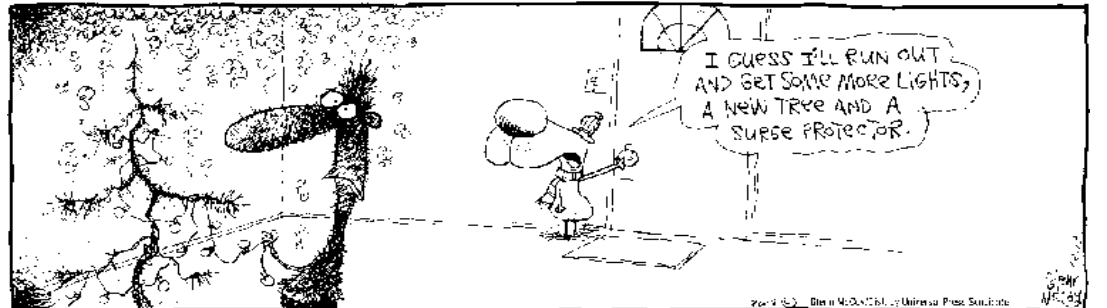
## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



## CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Discard  
6 Fall  
12 Sweet  
Spanish wine  
13 Laborious  
14 "I, Robot" writer  
15 Rough  
16 Buy stuff  
17 Mountain goat  
19 Kennedy or Koppel  
20 Broker's advice  
22 Ad-dressee  
24 Easy as —  
27 Ocho —, Jamaica  
29 Teeny bit  
32 "Four-teen Points" leader  
35 Deserve

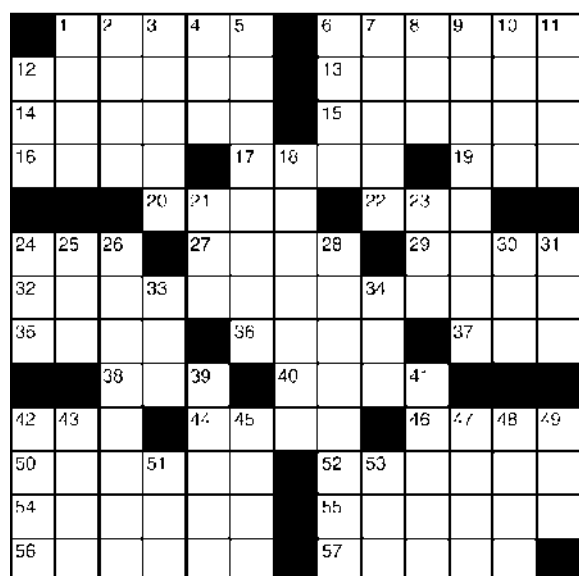
**DOWN**

1 Obi  
2 Advertising award  
3 Freeway exits  
4 Past  
5 Expo structure  
6 He was a head of his Time  
7 Strong hold?  
8 "Eureka!"  
9 Skilled artiste  
10 Differently  
11 Coaster  
12 More, to  
18 Fans  
21 Mess up  
23 Tin Man's need  
24 Shock partner  
25 Featherly accessory  
26 Sarge's subordinate  
28 Fragrant flower  
30 High point  
31 Pism re  
33 "CSI" find  
34 Cretan mountain  
39 Muslim spirits (Var.)  
41 Heathen  
42 Portent  
43 Sacrosanct  
45 Works with  
47 Memory method  
48 Notion  
49 Mid-June honoree  
51 Kinsman, in Cancun  
53 Jungfrau is one

**Solution time: 27 mins.**

Yesterday's answer 12-13

**PARADOXES**  
INDIVIDUAL  
PAPABEAR  
SMARTY  
ROCK  
AITAR  
LOVE  
ODA  
PIPPIN  
ANA  
BRAIN  
CHIC



## STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Christie Clark, 35; Jamie Foxx, 41; Steve Buscemi, 51; Christopher Plummer, 79

**Happy Birthday:** If you give in to what others want, you will be unhappy with who you've become. You may have to make some adjustments in order to follow your own path. Don't let your emotions work to your disadvantage. Be true to yourself. Your numbers are 6, 10, 18, 24, 28, 35, 43

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Opposition regarding a personal matter must be dealt with, even if it does make you angry. Plan a trip or an excursion that will help you mellow out and feel better about the future. \*\*

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Do something special with the ones you love or lend a helping hand to someone in need. You will feel better if you can bring some joy to others and do something that will benefit a cause you believe in. \*\*\*\*

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** If you've been spending too much, consider consolidating your debts before year's end. Plan a new budget that will force you to save more. Love is in the stars but don't spend a lot to impress someone. \*\*\*

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** You'll be emotional about things happening to your peers as well as about your future. Don't take a negative view—you have plenty to look forward to if you wait for the dust to settle. A festive event will inspire you romantically. \*\*\*

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Take on a challenge and you will prove your capabilities. You'll make things happen and will get things done. A romantic time will lead to some special promises. Don't let a financial matter cause a rift. \*\*\*

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Discuss issues that concern you before it's too late to solve these matters amicably. A relationship with someone you've known for some time may come to an abrupt end. Consider making personal changes. \*\*\*\*

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Don't overstep your boundaries in any aspect of your life. You will be tempted to overdo, overindulge and overspend. Speak your mind but don't expect everyone to agree with you. Love is in the stars. \*\*

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** A financial adjustment can make your life easier. You have something tangible to work with, so don't sell yourself short. Every deal is unique, so structure this one to fit your needs and support your goals. A partner will need your help. \*\*\*\*\*

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Don't run away from problems or people who need answers. Get unfinished partnerships and business out of the way so you can move forward with a clear conscience. Face the music and you will ease your stress. \*\*\*

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Talk about your feelings and intentions and you will clear up so much that has been on your mind. You can get everyone you care

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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about on the same page by laying out your game plan and letting them contribute. Keep everything in the open. \*\*\*

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Use your ingenuity, drive and sense of adventure to come up with a plan that will save everyone a lot of time. You'll be appreciated for your speed and creative input. A vocation in social services will spark your interest. \*\*\*

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** This is a good time to discuss anything that has been bothering you and to get to the bottom of matters that you feel need to be altered. A new beginning is in sight—all you have to do is be honest about what you really want. \*\*\*\*\*

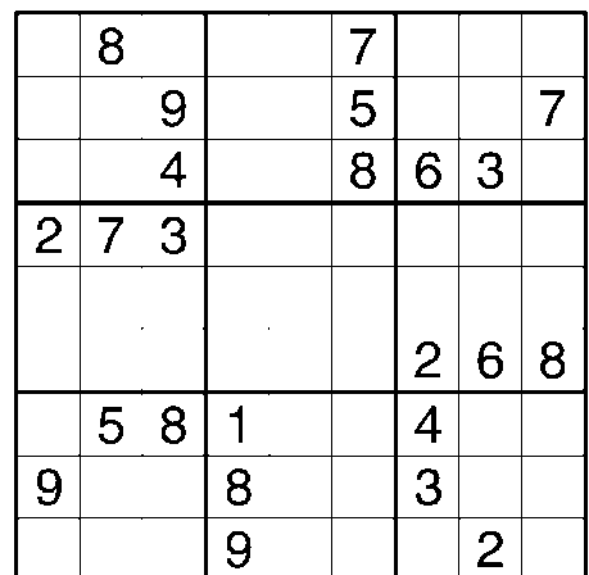
**Birthday Baby:** You express yourself powerfully and never back down. You will always follow your own path. You are stubborn and proud and often surprise others with your choices.

Eugenia's Web sites: [astroadvice.com](http://astroadvice.com) for fun, [eugenialast.com](http://eugenialast.com) for confidential consultations

## SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★★★★

12/13

©2007 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

1	5	7	2	9	3	8	6	4
8	4	9	5	1	6	3	2	7
6	3	2	8	7	4	5	9	1
7	9	6	1	4	5	2	8	3
5	8	1	6	3	2	4	7	9
3	2	4	9	8	7	1	5	6
2	1	3	7	6	8	9	4	5
9	7	5	4	2	1	6	3	8
4	6	8	3	5	9	7	1	2

## WONDERWORD

By DAVID  
QUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The letters spell the Wonderword.

HURCAP COLLECTORS

Solution: 7 letters

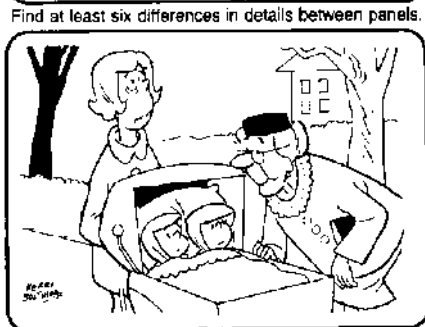
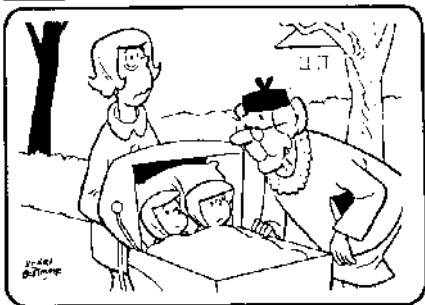
F C S E S L L E U Q I T N A A  
D I Z R K G S D S F A R C H  
I I L D A C N E L Y C C O C  
S N O I T U A I A H E B V H  
P M T N N O E B T I S B A E R  
L E I R R G O I V S Y O E R O  
A V A N A M N E O P E F N S M  
Y A S R O D S R O A D S I D E  
K S A T U I I D Y R I E H N L  
C G U S O E T N E T U R S A D  
A A T E S R A I G S G I T S E  
R R K H S P A C D R U E E R A  
Y A A E M U S G O E M S S A L  
M P L O I C O U E U L A V R E  
E L C S H O P H E R O T S E R

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Accessories, Antiques, Archives, Auctions, Automobiles, Cars, Chrome, Company, Covers, Dealer, Display, Edition, Find, Garage, Group, Guide, Hobby, House, Industry, Make, Metal, Model, Parts, Rack, Rare, Restore, Roadside, Round, Save, Search, Season, Set, Series, Sets, Shape, Shine, Shop, Size, Stacks, Storage, Tracing, Used, Value, Vintage, Year  
Yesterday's Answer: Address



**HOCUS-FOCUS** BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Differences: 1. Woman's hair is different. 2. A marker has a red tip. 3. The man's hat is different. 4. A woman's coat has a different pattern. 5. The man's shoes are different. 6. A woman's bag is different.

**Wishing Well®**

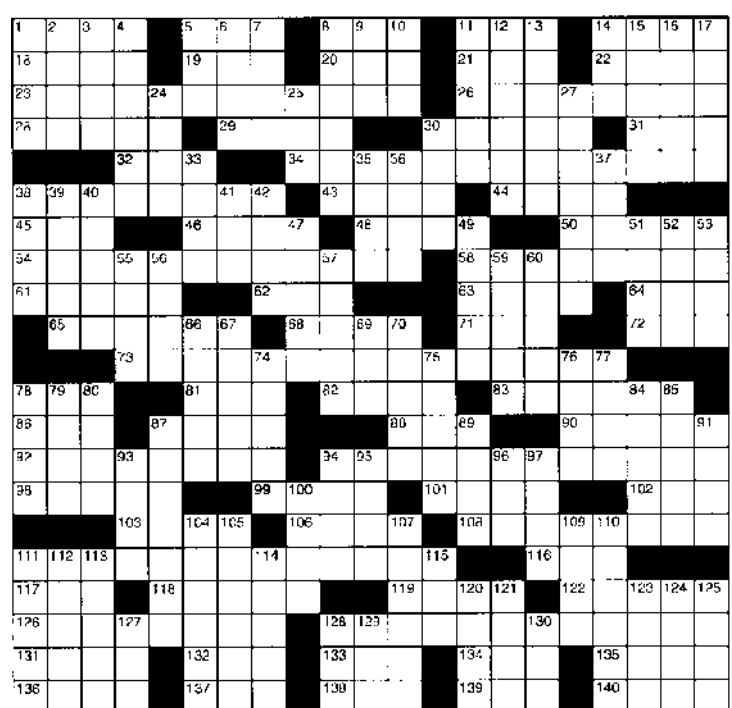
2	4	8	7	5	7	2	6	4	2	7	2	7
A	W	F	F	A	O	S	B	I	H	R	I	G
8	3	6	8	3	5	7	3	8	4	2	8	6
R	P	E	I	L	G	I	A	E	S	T	N	C
5	2	3	7	4	7	4	8	5	2	8	7	3
O	T	N	V	D	E	O	D	O	I	S	E	A
2	4	6	7	8	5	2	7	8	4	7	2	7
N	M	O	N	H	D	T	E	I	M	H	I	
4	3	2	8	6	3	8	4	7	6	2	7	4
S	H	I	P	N	E	I	G	E	G	N	S	A
3	8	4	8	6	3	8	5	8	5	2	6	5
A	S	I	F	E	D	O	S	U	T	K	N	A
2	6	2	4	5	2	6	8	6	8	4	5	4
I	I	N	N	R	G	A	N	L	D	E	T	D

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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**Super Crossword** SOMETHING'S FISHY

- ACROSS**
- Strike-brace
  - Suffix with snail
  - Salon supply
  - Research site
  - Illinc as — 18 — Romeo
  - Word with back or rug
  - Generation
  - Any-quality dig
  - Hedestal part
  - Fishy actress?
  - Dignified
  - Gay
  - Jannings or Gills
  - Man's (78 song)
  - kwon do
  - Quiche ingredient
  - Fishy outfit?
  - Bucolic
  - James of "Brian's Song"
  - Jacob's twin
  - A man's name
  - "Nabucco" number
  - Neighbor of Niger
  - Alcove
  - Fishy film?
  - Future
  - Submarine liner
  - Tse-tung
  - Chost protector
  - Funt apparatus
  - Supreme leader?
  - Parka part
  - Southern constellation
  - shy physicist?
  - Use a phaser
  - Letter from Athens
  - "Mein —" ("Cabbie" tune)
  - CSW's Tab
  - Seville shout
  - Whir
  - Actor
  - Tognazzi
  - Cairo breed
  - Collegiate sport
  - Fishy TV show?
  - Crooked
  - French couturier
  - Dashaard
  - Neighbor of Niger
  - Cpl's super or
  - Roider on
  - Bucket
  - Photo writer?
  - Squirrel's snack
  - Author ... snail
  - Ball town
  - Pinza or Chialpin
  - School tool
  - Chunky pasta
  - Fishy novel?
  - Nixon or Johnson
  - Foucault's "Pendulum"
  - author
  - Chicken — king
  - Cow's comment (with)
  - Unusual
  - Common Market currency
  - OC figure
  - Palindromic diarist
  - Part of Micronesia
  - Close as can be
  - Family
  - "The Mod Squad"
  - committee
  - Tuscan town
  - Decorative vase
  - Like some exudes
  - Mighty mite
  - Medicinal plant
  - Singer
  - Paul of "American Graffiti"
  - Cochise or Geronimo
  - Washes
  - Fuss and feathers
  - Swahili, e.g.
  - Dwight's competition
  - didled (with)
  - Grate stuff
  - Vare dir
  - Desce-mona's enemy
  - Loon lips
  - '82 Toto hit
  - Sociable stalling
  - Alum
  - Shoestring
  - Bulge — Haley
  - go-clar
  - Throw in the towel
  - Prepares cherries
  - committee
  - Tuscan town
  - Pound sound
  - Neeson or O'Flaherty
  - Video game company
  - Exclude
  - Arraz's country
  - grows on you
  - Napoleonic ste
  - Sleep in the woods
  - Hunter
  - Hershtiser
  - Booze
  - Brnk
  - Blue guy
  - Runs around in c-rdies?
  - Grate stuff
  - Vare dir
  - Desce-mona's enemy
  - Loon lips
  - '82 Toto hit
  - Sociable stalling
  - Alum
  - Shoestring
  - Bulge — Haley
  - go-clar
  - Throw in the towel
  - Prepares cherries
  - committee
  - Tuscan town
  - Birdsong of basketball
  - Laurel or LeBlanc
  - Paver quantity
  - Acto' Buery
  - Like a desert
  - So o of "Star Wars"
  - King of comedy
  - lactin
  - Opens
  - Daze
  - Tripoli native
  - Knitting stitch
  - Little mouse?
  - Book a shut: ecopk
  - Ta'ewell'
  - Light beer
  - Alliance
  - Put away a pickle
  - Ary
  - Chilly powder?
  - Inverrive
  - Neutral tone
  - Shik
  - 127 Mil. address
  - Critic's god?
  - President Bush was one
  - "The Gold Bug" author



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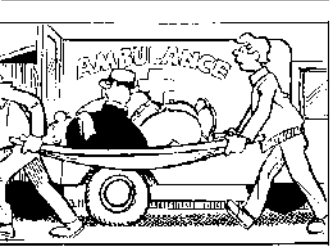
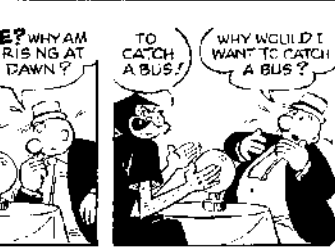
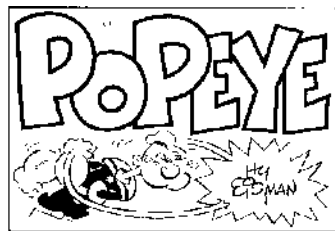
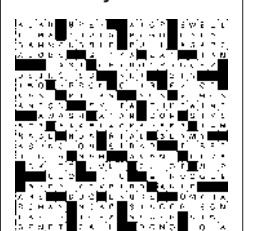
**Trivia test** by F&E Rodriguez

- LANGUAGE: What is a diacritical mark?
- ANIMAL KINGDOM: What kind of creature is an ocelot?
- AD SLOGANS: What soft drink was known in the 1970s as "The Uncola"?
- TRANSPORTATION: What kind of ship is a dhow?
- GEOGRAPHY: Where was the ancient kingdom of Northumbria located?
- FASHION: What is a glen-garry?
- RELIGION: Who was John the Baptist's father?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Who was the first American-born citizen to be canonized by the Catholic Church?
- LITERATURE: Who is the author of "Le Morte D'Arthur"?
- TELEVISION: Who played the character of "Captain Kangaroo" in the TV series?

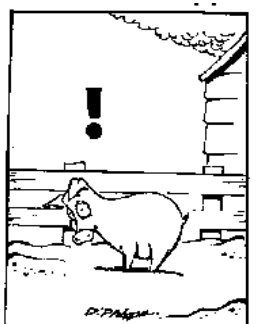
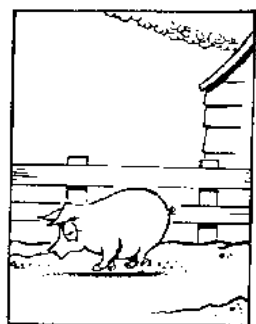
1. A mark added to a letter that indicates a different pronunciation
2. Wildcat
3. Jeep
4. Traditional Arabic sailing vessel
5. Northeast England, southern Scotland
6. Woolen cap of Scottish origin
7. Zacharias
8. Elizabeth Ann Seton
9. Sir Thomas Malory
10. Bob Keeshan

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**Saturday's Answers**



**Amber Waves**

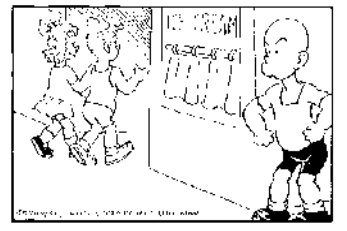
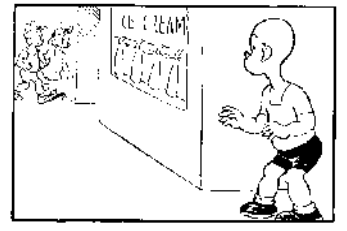
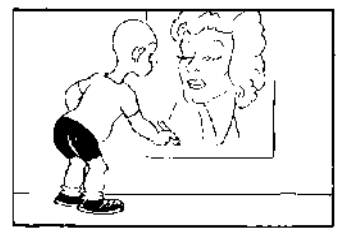
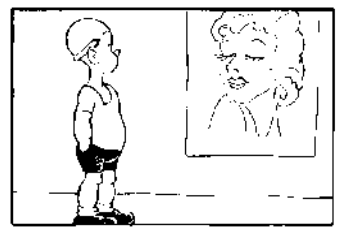
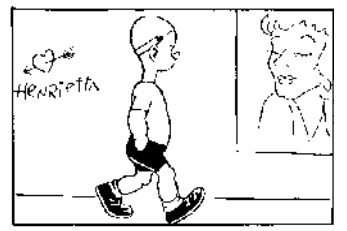
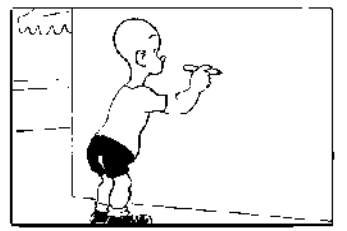
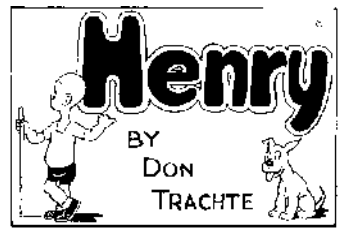
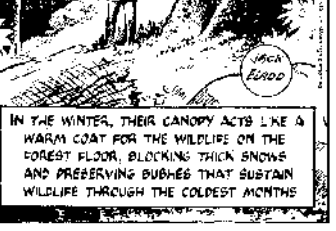
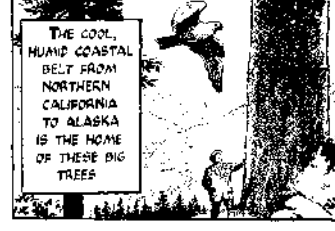
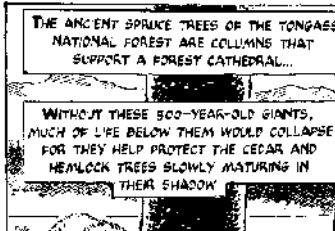
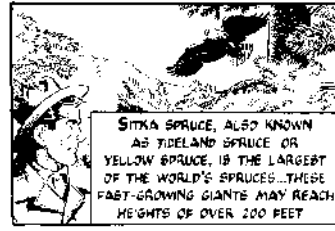


**by Dave T. Phipps**

**The Spats**



**by Jeff Pickering**





# CLASSIFIED ADS



## CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

### CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as \$25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$25
• 5-Liner	\$35
• 3-Liner with picture	\$45
• 5-Liner with picture	\$55

### ADVERTISING DEADLINE

#### Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:  
- Saipan Tribune: All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

### CANCELLATION

#### Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

### REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

### CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

### ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

**LOST PASSPORT**  
Name: Guo, Zhandong  
Passport No: G06751591  
Type of Passport: China  
Date of Birth: Jan. 21, 1961  
**If found, please call 288-1688.**

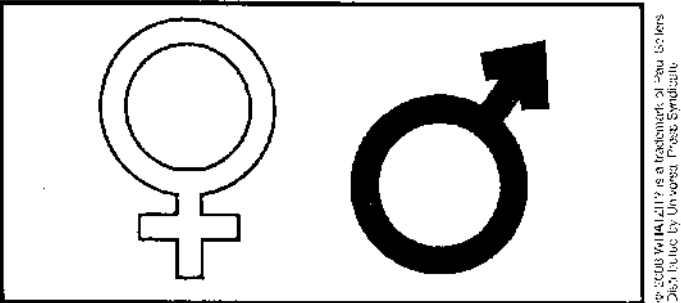
**WANTED TO LEASE**  
Looking for property with nice oceanview to lease, preparably direct from land owner.  
Please contact 483-9984

**FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL**  
Apartment for rent: Brand new studio type apartment, across NMC & Riviera Hotel, brand new...furnished, air-conditioner, water heater, refrigerator, free wi-fi internet. Only \$200/month. Contact: Danny @ 287-2387.

**FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL**  
Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, FF, AC, 24-hr pwr./water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. MIHA applicants accepted. Right behind NMC campus. Special rates for NMC faculty/students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.



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Find today's solution in this section

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**4X20' Aluminum Containers**  
  
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235- NEWS



# Gould's field goal in OT lifts Bears over Saints



**CHICAGO** (AP)—Robbie Gould raced over to his tee on the Chicago Bears sideline after the New Orleans Saints tried to ice him with a timeout in overtime Thursday night. A few practice kicks later, Gould booted the Saints out of Soldier Field with another devastating loss.

Gould connected from 35 yards on Chicago's first possession of overtime, lifting the Bears to a 27-24 victory that boosted their playoff hopes.

After leaving Chicago with season-ending losses the past two years, the Saints looked as if they were ready to end their frustration. Instead, their slim playoff hopes took another blow thanks to Gould, who also converted a 28-yarder on the final play of regulation.

Drew Brees hit Marques Colston for an 11-yard touchdown pass with just over 3 minutes left in regulation to give New Orleans its first lead at 24-21. Kyle Orton responded by leading the Bears on a tying drive, setting up overtime between two 7-6 teams.

The Bears won the coin toss, and got another big break when the Saints' Roman Harper interfered with Devin Hester on a deep pass down the middle to set Chicago up at the 15. After Orton stumbled back and put the ball in the middle of the field, the Saints called time as Gould knocked a 35-yarder through the uprights.

After a little practice, Gould

got back on the field and converted again with no problem.

"Bottom line for us, we're still in the hunt," Chicago's Lance Briggs said.

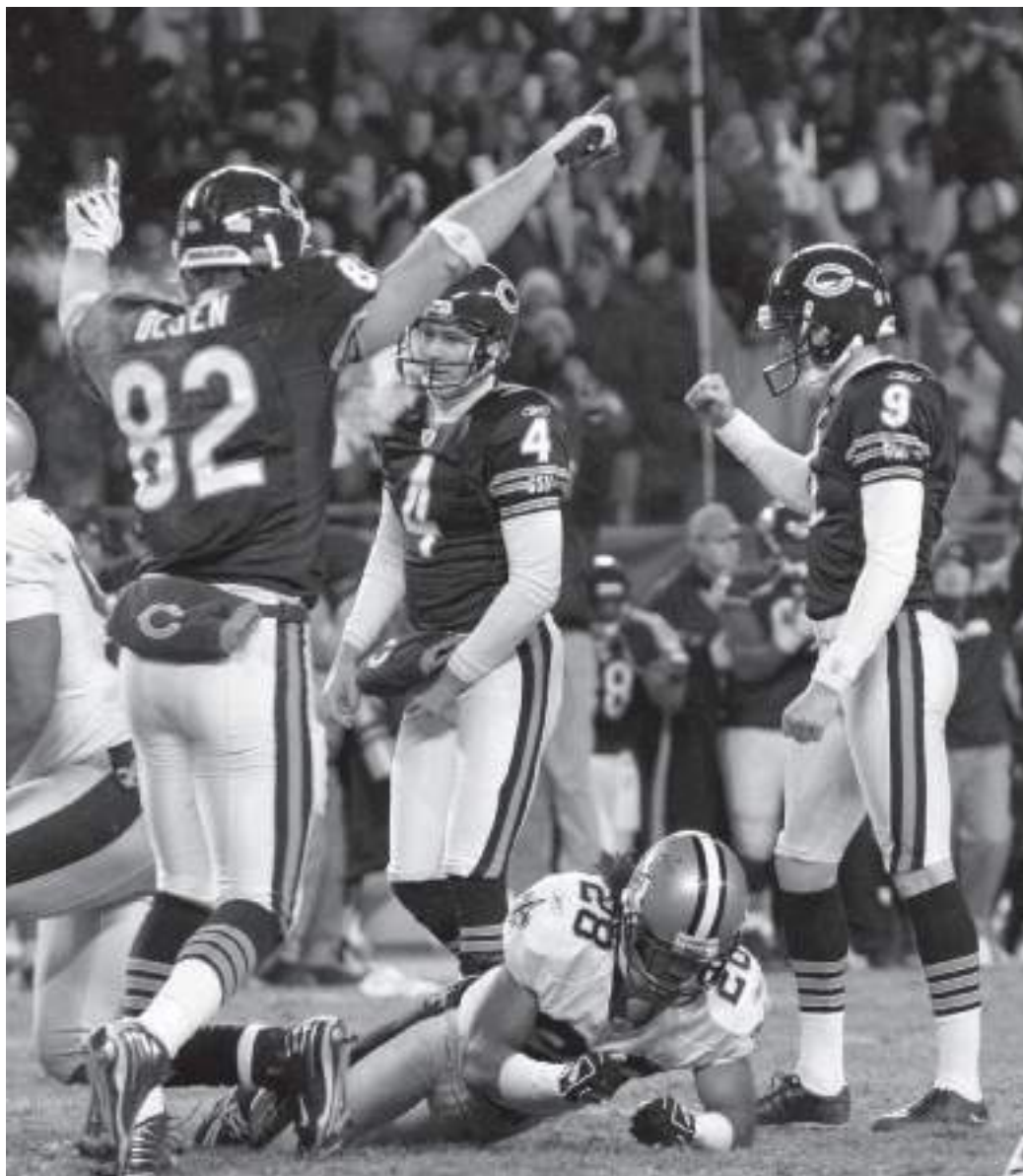
The Bears still need plenty of help to reach the postseason.

The Bears (8-6) are a half-game behind NFC North leader Minnesota, but the Vikings hold the tiebreaker. Chicago also is a half-game out of a wild-card spot.

It was another rough night in Chicago for New Orleans (7-7), which lost the NFC championship game here two years ago and saw its slim postseason hopes vanish with a loss on the final day last season at Soldier Field. The last-place Saints still have a shot at the wild card but can forget about catching NFC South leader Carolina.

Brees, challenging Dan Marino's single-season record for yards passing, was 24-of-43 for 232 yards, two touchdowns and two interceptions. He looked more like himself late in the game after a miserable first half. Harassed by the defense, Brees was just 10-of-24 with 93 yards and a 49.5 rating in the first two quarters as Chicago grabbed a 21-7 lead.

Daniel Manning returned the opening kickoff 83 yards for a touchdown and helped set up Matt Forte's 1-yard TD run with a 52-yard return early in the second as the Bears grabbed a 14-7 lead. Forte's score came after Jason David grabbed Hester as he tried to catch a deep pass down the middle, putting the



Chicago Bears kicker Robbie Gould (9) pumps his fist as New Orleans Saints cornerback Usama Young (28) lies on the turf after Gould kicked the game-winning field goal in overtime to beat the Saints 27-24 during an NFL football game in Chicago, Thursday, Dec. 11, 2008.

ball on the 5.

Orton's 6-yard scramble in the closing minute of the half made it a 14-point game.

With their second straight win and third in four games, the Bears finally appear to be hitting their stride after a convincing 23-10 win over Jacksonville on

Sunday. They'll try to make it three in a row—something they haven't done since the 2006 Super Bowl season—at Green Bay a week from Monday.

Chicago native and Illinois product Pierre Thomas started the Saints' comeback with a 42-yard touchdown run that made it

21-14 with 3:44 left in the third. Josh Bullucks set up the score, intercepting an Orton pass when it deflected off wide receiver Rashied Davis.

Glenn Pakulak kicked a 30-yard field goal with just over 9 minutes left to set the stage for Brees' go-ahead

## Injured 'Pacman' might miss rest of season

**IRVING, Texas** (AP)—Dallas Cowboys cornerback Adam "Pacman" Jones might miss the rest of the season because of a neck injury.

Coach Wade Phillips said Wednesday that Jones, who was injured early in the 20-13 loss at Pittsburgh, has a "herniated disk, maybe two" and will definitely miss Sunday's game against the New York Giants.

"Our people don't think it's career threatening or anything else that he would have to be operated (on) or anything like that," Phillips said. "But it is something that might put him out this year."

Jones was scheduled to be evaluated by another doctor Thursday.

"The prognosis wasn't good for him playing this year, from our people," Phillips said. "They're going to see if maybe they can re-evaluate in a few weeks or they'll say you're not going to play this year. That's what we're looking at."

For the wild-card hopeful Cowboys (8-5), Jones added to an already lengthy injury list.

Running back Marion Barber (right pinkie toe, calf), tight end Jason Witten (sprained right ankle), receiver Roy Williams (foot), safety Ken Hamlin (right foot) and guard Montrae Holland (ankle) were among those who did not practice Wednesday.

Jones was hurt in the first quarter Sunday when he fell on top of his muffed punt, getting caught in a scramble for the loose ball. After several players fell on him, Jones was pulled from the pile awkwardly by a Pittsburgh player. But Jones played the rest of the game.

It was Jones' first game back after a six-game suspension, the second time he has been banned by commissioner Roger Goodell for off-field issues.

Jones was not in the locker room Wednesday when it was open to reporters and not available for comment.

Phillips said he knew Jones was hurt when the coach was checking on players during the flight home.

"I ask them if they're OK, and he said, 'No, I'm not OK.' He

said, 'No, my neck's hurting,' " Phillips said. "Most of them say I'm OK, I'll be OK, coach, that kind of thing. But he obviously was hurt."

After starting the first six games for the Cowboys, Jones was suspended by Goodell on Oct. 14, a week after the cornerback got into an alcohol-related scuffle with one of his bodyguards during a private party at an upscale Dallas hotel.

The bodyguard was part of a security detail employed by the team to help keep the player out of trouble.

Goodell initially issued an indefinite suspension that he said would last at least four games. Jones was allowed to return to practice Nov. 24, but wasn't cleared to play until the Pittsburgh game.

Jones missed the entire 2007 season because of multiple incidents while with the Tennessee Titans, who traded him to Dallas during the offseason. Before playing last week, Jones had missed 22 of 28 games since the end of the 2006 season because

pass to Colston.

Thomas finished with 87 yards rushing and 59 receiving.

Chicago got a scare early when Forte limped to the sideline with a toe injury after his first attempt—a run for no gain on the left side. He finished with 34 yards rushing and 29 receiving.

Orton was 24-of-40 with 172 yards and two interceptions.

The Saints got some good news before the game when a judge in Minnesota extended his injunction against the suspensions of Will Smith, Deuce McAllister and Charles Grant along with the Vikings' Kevin Williams and Pat Williams for violating the NFL's anti-doping policy.

Smith started at defensive end. McAllister was inactive and Grant (torn triceps) is on injured reserve.

But in the end, the Saints had another rough stay in Chicago—a place where they've experienced their share of frustration in recent years.

Last season, the Bears were already out of playoff contention when they beat New Orleans 33-25 in the final game, wiping out any chance the Saints had at the postseason.

Two years ago, the Bears scored the first 16 points and ran away with a 39-14 win after the Saints pulled within two, thanks to an assist from Reggie Bush. He pointed at Brian Urlacher and performed a celebratory flip as he crossed the goal line with an 88-yard touchdown catch, waking up Chicago's defense.

Bush, who missed last year's game with an injury, sprained a knee in the first half and did not play in the second even though he said he was fine.

of suspensions.

Jones had 28 tackles and a team-high 13 pass breakups in his seven games with the Cowboys.

"He did play some. I think that helped some," Phillips said. "We know a lot more about him as far as the player is concerned. It's up to him now. I told him he's being tested. He is."

When asked if Jones' attitude had been different since his return to the team after being away nearly six weeks because of the latest suspension, Phillips said that had never been an issue with the Cowboys.

"He practices and meets and does all the right things," Phillips said. "We've never had a problem with his on-the-field and practice attitude. He wanted to play and I thought he played pretty well in the game. He was just getting back."

Barber, who didn't make the trip last week to Pittsburgh, worked with trainers on the side Wednesday. Phillips said he would be re-evaluated Thursday to see "how he feels and where he is."

## QB Cassel returns to practice with Patriots

**SAN JOSE, Calif.** (AP)—Matt Cassel returned to practice with the New England Patriots on Thursday morning after missing Wednesday's workouts following his father's death.

Cassel took part in stretching and throwing drills during the portion of practice open to reporters at San Jose State, where the Patriots are training between road games in Seattle and Oakland. He briefly left the club after his father, Greg, died Monday night in the Los Angeles area.

Although the Patriots made no announcement, Cassel seems likely to start on Sunday against the Raiders.

"I think it'll be good for Matt," linebacker Mike Vrabel said. "I don't think anybody can really relate to losing a parent, especially a father, but ... we've got a support staff in there, and hopefully he can lean on his teammates."

New England (8-5) is in a three-way tie with Miami and the New York Jets for the AFC East lead, but the Patriots have a 21-2 record in December games since 2003.

Cassel has steadily improved

since taking over for Tom Brady in the season opener, passing for 3,052 yards and 14 touchdowns while ranking among the AFC leaders in most statistical passing categories. He played well last weekend against the Seahawks, rallying the Patriots from an eight-point deficit in the fourth quarter with a cool comfort that reminded many of Brady's best work.

But football wasn't the primary concern for the Patriots on Thursday.

"Maybe being around the guys might ease it a bit," full-back Heath Evans said. "I don't know that for a fact. I just wanted to wrap my arms around him this morning and tell him that I love him. At this time, that's about the only thing that you can know how to do."

Defensive tackle Vince Wilfork, who returned to practice Wednesday after leaving the game in Seattle during the first quarter with a shoulder injury, can relate to Cassel's emotions.

"I sent him a text and just told him I've been in a similar situation with both of my parents," Wilfork said. "He knows he's got a bunch of guys who love him."



# Celtics win 13th in a row, beat Wizards



WASHINGTON (AP)—At 21-2, the Boston Celtics of Kevin Garnett, Paul Pierce and Ray Allen are off to the best start in the franchise's storied history.

Even Bill Russell, Larry Bird and Bob Cousy never were this good this early.

Allen and Pierce scored 22 points apiece, Garnett nearly had a triple-double, and the Celtics beat the Washington Wizards 122-88 on Thursday night for the NBA champions' 13th consecutive victory.

"I've been a big fan of history," Garnett said. "To establish ourselves in that history that's so enriched with culture and prestige and tradition is a great thing."

He finished with 11 points, 12 rebounds and seven assists in three quarters.

Boston's winning streak is its longest since a 14-game run in 1985-86.

Caron Butler scored 19 points for the last-place Wizards, who matched their franchise's slowest start, dropping to 4-16 for the first time since the 1966-67 Baltimore Bullets.

"You saw the best team in the league," Wizards interim coach Ed Tapscott said. "And in case you weren't watching, it wasn't us. It was them."

The Celtics knew what they were playing for. Twice before, including last season, Boston went 20-2 before losing Game No. 23.

"It's always great to be part of a team that's potentially mentioned as one of the franchise's best," Allen said.

Boston had its most lopsided victory of the season—just as one might expect from a matchup between the reigning champions, who also boast the league's best record, and the woeful Wizards, who have the Eastern Conference's worst mark.

Going into the game, the only thing that might have given Boston pause, and Washington hope, was what happened when these clubs played each other last season: The Wizards took three of four encounters.

"They had our number last year," Allen said, "and we remember that."

Indeed, Celtics coach Doc Rivers said one of his players read something said by a member of the Wizards that drew his team's attention.

Rivers heard his players talking



Boston Celtics guard Ray Allen (20) drives past Washington Wizards guard DeShawn Stevenson (2) during the first quarter of their NBA basketball game, Thursday, Dec. 11, 2008 in Washington.

about that before the game.

"It doesn't take them much. I swear they, like, search the newspapers to find something," Rivers said. "I didn't need to give a rah-rah speech."

Washington, though, actually led 12-11 about 4 1/2 minutes in, on a 9-foot floater by Antawn Jamison.

That's when Allen—and Boston—got in gear. He completed a four-point play to start a 19-5 run that essentially decided matters, putting the visitors ahead 30-17 with about 2 1/2 minutes left in the first quarter.

Allen scored 13 points in the first quarter with four 3s, combining with Pierce's 10 points to outscore the Wizards all by themselves: The period ended with the Celtics ahead 36-21.

"Just wide open," Allen said.

Washington never got closer than 10 points the rest of the way, trailing by more than 20 for most of the second quarter, which ended with the Celtics up 63-39.

"We're sick of it," Washington guard Juan Dixon said. "We've got to start taking things personal, man."

Clearly, this season's Wizards resemble in no way last season's Wizards.

And what about the Celtics? Are they better than a year ago?

"We don't know yet. That question is yet to be found out," Pierce said. "It's just only a quarter of the season over with. Ask me April 18, and I'll give you a better answer."

That, of course, is the day the playoffs begin.

## Mavericks 95, Bobcats 90

In Dallas, Dirk Nowitzki hit a key 3-pointer with less than 30 seconds to play to secure Dallas' win over Charlotte.

Nowitzki finished with 23 points for the Mavericks, 10-0 against the Bobcats.

It was a fifth straight loss for trade-depleted Charlotte.

## Mobley retires because of heart condition

GREENBURGH, N.Y. (AP)—New York Knicks guard Cuttino Mobley retired from the NBA on Thursday because of heart disease that he said has gotten worse.

Mobley said doctors told him he faced significant risks if he kept playing. The 11-year veteran said by walking away now, he could live a long life.

Mobley announced his decision at a press conference at the Knicks' training center, where he confirmed he has hypertrophic cardiomyopathy. The condition causes the heart muscle to thicken, making it harder to pump blood, and the 33-year-old Mobley said he had no choice but to end his career.

"The specialists I've seen made it clear that my heart condition has gotten worse and I couldn't continue to play professional basketball without putting my health and life in serious danger," Mobley said. "As much as I want to keep playing in the NBA, I have no choice but to follow the advice of my doctors and step away from the league."

Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy is the leading cause of sudden cardiac death in people under 30 years old and was linked to the deaths of former Boston Celtics forward Reggie Lewis and Loyola Marymount star Hank Gathers.

The Knicks acquired Mobley last month from the Los Angeles Clippers—a trade that may ultimately have saved his life. An EKG during his physical showed an irregularity with the heart, which Mobley already knew existed. The Knicks decided to perform an MRI exam, which revealed the more serious condition that previously had gone undetected.

Mobley then saw four specialists around the country, who performed additional tests and provided him

literature about the disease that convinced him to stop playing.

"The doctors said to not chance it and I feel as though they're right, having an 8-year old son, having a long life ahead of me, it's the smart thing," Mobley said. "It's a tough thing to swallow, but things in life happen, but you have to keep going."

Mobley averaged 16.0 points in 11 seasons with Houston, Orlando, Sacramento and the Clippers. He was expected to become the Knicks' starting shooting guard after the Nov. 21 trade.

The Knicks could have voided the deal because of the health concerns, but waived the physical requirement because the trade allowed them to move Zach Randolph's contract, freeing salary cap space for the summer of 2010.

"I thought this would be the perfect trade with him in it, but I would never put a player out there that's at the risk that he would be at," Knicks president Donnie Walsh said.

"None of this is as important as somebody's life. None of it. Period," Walsh said. "So I'm glad that we had a doctor that put him through tests that showed it, because the risk was there."

Walsh said he wasn't sure yet what options the Knicks had to fill the vacant roster spot and would begin researching it Friday.

Mobley said he'd thought about the scene of Gathers collapsing on the court during a game. Mobley said it factored into his decision.

"Say if you were to play, the worry, the worrisome of people watching you, if you were to fall, or it's just an elbow or just an ankle, that's scary. And then every single day just being scared for you, I think that's a selfish thing, also," he said. "Even though you love something so much, and I am in love with basketball, but sometimes you have to get a divorce."

which is now level with Portland a game behind divisional leader Denver.

Paul Millsap had his 10th straight double-double with 17 points and 12 rebounds for the Jazz, and Deron Williams added 14 points and 11 assists.

Brandon Roy had 33 points for Portland.

## K-Rod, Mets complete \$37 million, 3-year deal



LAS VEGAS

(AP)—Francisco Rodriguez and the New York Mets completed their \$37 million, three-year contract Wednesday. Rodriguez saved 62 games for the Los Angeles Angels this year, five more than the previous big league mark set by Bobby Thigpen of the Chicago White Sox in 1990, and then filed for free agency.

"One of our primary goals this offseason was to secure a top of the line closer to anchor our bullpen and by acquiring Frankie Rodriguez we feel confident that we have one of the best closers in the majors," Mets general manager Omar Minaya said in a statement.

Rodriguez's agent, Paul Kinzer, had hoped to get a five-year contract, possibly equaling the \$15 million average salary Mariano Rivera is earning from

the New York Yankees.

But with baseball executives worried about the national recession, Kinzer accepted a more modest deal. The Mets were a natural fit because they were one of the few big-market teams looking for an elite closer this offseason.

Because Johan Santana wears No. 57, Rodriguez will switch to No. 75.

"Mets fans are very passionate and playing in a new ballpark is going to be great," Rodriguez said in a statement. "I'm going to do everything I can to help bring a championship to Citi Field."

All-Star Billy Wagner is expected to miss all of next season following elbow ligament replacement surgery, causing the Mets to find a replacement.

"The way that we lost so many close games late, I think that was critical for us to— theoretically—address

this thing here. We have addressed it very well," manager Jerry Manuel said Tuesday, laughing. "I mean, they say the word on the street is good. It's good. That's just the word on the street. We've got to get it written down."

K-Rod could fit in with New York in another way, too. Some take exception to his antics on the mound, and the Mets have drawn the ire of opposing teams for their boisterous celebrations.

The fact that several free-agent closers were available probably drove down Rodriguez's market value. Coming off its second consecutive September collapse, New York got a boost as it prepares for its first season at Citi Field, an \$800 million ballpark built adjacent to Shea Stadium.

"He's a competitor. That's why he's one of the guys that we've been looking at," Minaya said.

The Mets still have a hole in their rotation and a shaky setup situation, however. So Minaya knows he might have more work to do on the bullpen.

"We have to find ways to change it up a little bit, find ways to have a different look to what we do back there," he said. "We're going to look at some free agents and we're going to look at that through some trades. I don't feel that we should just tell ourselves the only thing we need is one guy."

As for finding a starter, Minaya said he probably would meet with Oliver Perez's agent, Scott Boras, before the winter meetings end on Thursday. Perez, a free agent, was acquired by the Mets in 2006 and went 10-7 with a 4.22 ERA in 34 starts this year.

Minaya also said he had spoken to the agent for Pedro Martinez, who spent the past four seasons with the Mets.

Rodriguez, a three-time All-Star who turns 27 next month, was regarded as the premier closer on the market. While some teams were worried about his violent pitching motion and drop in velocity last season, he developed an outstanding changeup to go along with his other pitches.

"A very confident young man. He's an exciting guy to talk about," Manuel said. "Anytime you acquire a person at that level, it raises the level of everybody else. It's almost the same as saying Johan (Santana) is pitching. You see a different spirit with your team. To have a guy, a guy of that sort at the end of a ballgame, is very important, very critical for us. Or for anybody."

Rodriguez and Kinzer arrived in Las Vegas last weekend and dined Sunday night with Minaya, chief operating officer Jeff Wilpon and other team officials at a steakhouse. Turns out, it didn't take long to reach an agreement.



**TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES**

**NBA STANDINGS**

**EASTERN CONFERENCE**

**Atlantic Division**

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	21	2	.913	—
New Jersey	11	9	.550	8 1/2
New York	10	12	.455	10 1/2
Toronto	9	12	.429	11
Philadelphia	9	13	.409	11 1/2

**Southeast Division**

Orlando	17	5	.773	—
Atlanta	12	9	.571	4 1/2
Miami	12	9	.571	4 1/2
Charlotte	7	16	.304	10 1/2
Washington	4	16	.200	12

**Central Division**

Cleveland	19	3	.864	—
Detroit	11	9	.550	7
Chicago	10	11	.476	8 1/2
Milwaukee	9	15	.375	11
Indiana	7	14	.333	11 1/2

**WESTERN CONFERENCE**

**Southwest Division**

New Orleans	12	6	.667	—
Houston	14	8	.636	—
San Antonio	13	8	.619	1/2
Dallas	12	9	.571	1 1/2
Memphis	7	15	.318	7

**Northwest Division**

Denver	15	7	.682	—
Portland	15	9	.625	1
Utah	15	9	.625	1
Minnesota	4	17	.190	10 1/2
Oklahoma City	2	21	.087	13 1/2

**Pacific Division**

L.A. Lakers	18	3	.857	—
Phoenix	13	10	.565	6
Golden State	7	15	.318	11 1/2
Sacramento	6	16	.273	12 1/2
L.A. Clippers	4	17	.190	14

**Yesterday's Games**

Boston 122, Washington 88  
Dallas 95, Charlotte 90  
Utah 97, Portland 88

**NFL STANDINGS**

**AMERICAN CONFERENCE**

**East**

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
N.Y. Jets	8	5	0	.615	354	29
New England	8	5	0	.615	301	276
Miami	8	5	0	.615	269	260
Buffalo	6	7	0	.462	279	275

**South**

x-Tennessee	12	1	0	.923	332	184
Indianapolis	9	4	0	.692	292	253
Houston	6	7	0	.462	306	331
Jacksonville	4	9	0	.308	251	293

**North**

Pittsburgh	10	3	0	.769	289	183
Baltimore	9	4	0	.692	316	200
Cleveland	4	9	0	.308	222	275
Cincinnati	1	11	1	.115	154	345

**West**

Denver	8	5	0	.615	316	336
San Diego	5	8	0	.385	324	281
Oakland	3	10	0	.231	179	299
Kansas City	2	11	0	.154	233	364

**NATIONAL CONFERENCE**

**East**

x-N.Y. Giants	11	2	0	.846	366	226
Dallas	8	5	0	.615	312	280
Philadelphia	7	5	1	.577	339	263
Washington	7	6	0	.538	218	246

**South**

Carolina	10	3	0	.769	323	254
Tampa Bay	9	4	0	.692	303	238
Atlanta	8	5	0	.615	323	271
New Orleans	7	7	0	.500	390	353

**North**

Minnesota	8	5	0	.615	307	276
Chicago	8	6	0	.571	331	302
Green Bay	5	8	0	.385	355	319
Detroit	0	13	0	.000	219	413

**West**

x-Arizona	8	5	0	.615	372	323
San Francisco	5	8	0	.385	286	327
Seattle	2	11	0	.154	237	335
St. Louis	2	11	0	.154	169	394

**x-clinched division**

**Yesterday's Game**

Chicago 27, New Orleans 24, OT

By The Associated Press

# Golf Woman to highlight golfing in CNMI



Creative staff of the Japanese publication *Golf Woman* have been in the Northern Mariana Islands this week to gather material for their “Golf Saipan Campaign 2009” targeting female office workers.

A four-member editorial and photography crew arrived in Saipan last Dec. 8 for a four-day familiarization and photo tour to include visits to Marianas Country Club, Kingfisher Golf Links, and Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

*Golf Woman* is a free, quarterly magazine distributed throughout Japan at golf courses, golf lesson clubs, country clubs, shopping centers, restaurants, and hair salons. The “Golf Campaign Saipan 2009” will feature the island from the vantage of healing, dining, golf, and shopping.

“Young, female office workers from Japan have always comprised a substantial percentage of visitors to the islands of Saipan, Tinian and Rota,” said Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio. “The publicity we will receive through *Golf*



MARK RABAGO

A four-member editorial and photography crew from Japanese publication *Golf Woman* arrived on Saipan last Dec. 8 for a familiarization and photo tour that included visits to Marianas Country Club, Kingfisher Golf Links, and Laolao Bay Golf Resort. Photo above shows Guam’s Louie J. Sunga in action in this year’s 2008 Tournament of Champions at the Kagman golf course.

## SAKISAT

From Page 28

Freedom Air’s (5-0) Reno and Roy Celis all going 11-for-16 for an identical average of .688.

Completing the Top 10 were the Legislature’s Tony Celis (.684), the Jets’ Ben Taisacan (.647), Law & Order’s Derek Sasamoto (.647), DCCA’s Jun

Saralu (.647), No Zone’s Jerry Ayuyu (.643), DEQ/CRM’s Jess Borja (.643), and CPA’s Mel Manahane (.625).

Other top performers in various categories were Pete Teigita (13 runs cored), Laniyo (seven doubles), Ben Taisacan (three triples), and Byron Kaipat (five homers and 16 RBIs).

In the pitching race, Freedom Air’s Roque Camacho was on top of the board with his 1.62 ERA. Camacho

pitched 26 innings in four games, gave up 20 runs, allowed 35 hits, and had only six errors. He had a perfect 4-0 record.

Pitching leaders were based on 10 or more innings pitched.

Custom’s J.J. Salas was in second place with his 3.15 ERA, followed by Sakisat (3.38), P&S’s Mike Sablan (3.50), and the Jets’ Laniyo (4.20).

Rounding off the Top 10 were Public

School Systems’ John Terlaje (4.42), the Beach Boys’ Steve Igisair (4.65), Legislature’s Perry Besong (4.67), the Jets’ Donald Flores (4.90), and CUC’s Frank Shiro (5.25).

DLNR’s Esang Olkeriil led the league in strikeouts with 11, while Fernando Camacho had 10, Rueben Olkeriil made nine and John Terlaje, Sakisat, Mario Palacios, and Leo Bobai recorded eight apiece.

## POI

From Page 28

Customs tied the game after six and a half innings, 16-all. following Masaharu’s two-run single at the top of the seventh.

At the bottom of the seventh, Customs pitcher J.J. Salas walked Omengkar. Leftfielder Jun Kaipat batted next and singled bringing Omengkar to second base. Rightfielder Harlan Reyes flied out, while centerfielder William Sablan hit his target with Masaharu losing the grounder allowing Omengkar to reach home plate.

Masaharu later threw the ball to first beating Sablan.

POI claimed its third win in five games. POI had three sluggers going 3-for-4 with extra hitter Andrew Dueñas making the most impressive stint at-bat with his three-double at the bottom of the sixth.

The Customs-POI game was first played on Nov. 16, but was suspended at the top of the third due to rain.

## CPA 16, PIC 2

In other results, Commonwealth Ports Authority cruised to a 16-2 win over Pacific Islands Club.

The CPA-PIC tiff was originally

set for Nov. 20.

Leftfielder Byron Kaipat was only 2-for-4 at-bat, but he hit back-to-back homers and in those two roundtrippers had four RBIs to keep CPA’s perfect record after five games.

Outfielder Mark Toves and shortstop Mel Manahane connected on one homer apiece for CPA at the top of the sixth.

CPA’s defense allowed PIC to score only in the third inning with Tommy’s Kennington single driving Otsuka Masatoshi home and Thunderson Sokau reaching home plate on a CPA error.

## Law & Order 22, Customs 11.

Law & Order handed Customs back-to-back losses on the same night with the former cruising to a 22-11 victory.

Shortstop Ben Lisua was perfect at-bat going 4-for-4. He had a three-run triple in the first inning and a three-run double in the fourth. Lisua scored four runs and six RBIs.

First baseman Ulysses Kapileo went 3-for-5 at-bat, homered once, and scored five RBIs in Law & Order’s easy triumph.

Law & Order connected on six runs apiece in the second, third, and fourth inning to break the game wide open.

## REDSKINS

From Page 28

is the greatest asset this team has, then I’m still left to wonder what kind of head coach Zorn will be.

But all that stuff, Zorn vs. Portis and Campbell’s evolution, is secondary. The lack of great line play is primary, and it’s the fault of the people selecting the talent. No fault will be found in this space with Jansen and Chris Samuels, who’ve played admirably over the years and usually pretty darn well, as anchors no less. No, this is a failure of judgment by the people who procure talent. For the better part of 10 years the Redskins have been obsessed with drafting receivers at the expense of both lines, and it’s showing now.

Repeatedly, they’ve traded draft choices for receivers or reached in the draft to take receivers who weren’t worth selecting high. The last time the Redskins took a lineman in the first or second round of the draft was 2000

when they selected Samuels with the third overall pick (behind LaVar Arrington). They took Jansen with a second-round pick in 1999, behind Champ Bailey.

Since then? They took wide receiver Taylor Jacobs with a second-round pick in 2003 and he gave the team nothing. They took wide receiver Cliff Russell in the third round in 2002. They took Rod Gardner, who had an okay but brief run, 15th overall in 2001. A couple of years ago they traded a third- and a fourth-round pick for Brandon Lloyd, who was a disaster for the minute-and-a-half he was here. And of course, in 2008 they took three pass-catchers—Devin Thomas, Fred Davis and Malcolm Kelly—who together don’t have 20 catches this season.

Yes, Jason Campbell needed receivers, but the Redskins essentially picked three knuckleheads, pass-catchers who still haven’t convinced the coaches they know the plays. Imagine if the team had used those picks on linemen over the years? Imagine if they’d sim-

ply used the two picks they dealt to the 49ers for Lloyd on linemen. A team playing a power division like the NFC East can’t go the better part of a decade without using a single high pick on a player who can protect the quarterback. The Redskins knew they were old and injured on the offensive line when they went into the draft and did nothing.

And on defense, they haven’t selected a player like Tennessee’s Albert Haynesworth, who might be the league’s defensive player of the year. You think the Redskins could generate a little more pass rush up front if they’d used a third-round pick to take Justin Tuck, as the Giants did in 2005? Or Mathias Kiwanuka with the first pick in 2006? Perhaps Campbell might have a little bit more time to go through his progressions if the Redskins had taken Chris Snee, as the Giants did in the second round in 2004, or David Diehl, as the Giants did in the fifth round in 2003.

The Giants can rush the passer, protect their own quarterback and stop the

run when it is necessary to do so in the fourth quarter. The Redskins cannot. Drafting and trading for receivers, especially ones who aren’t ready to play by the end of their rookie seasons, doesn’t help you do any of the above.

The Redskins’ failure to contend this year has precious little to do with quarterback play, how desperately the players want to win or Zorn’s play-calling. Every minute spent examining those things is needlessly diverting precious time from addressing what’s actually wrong with the team.

If the Redskins spend the next two offseasons acquiring (mostly through the draft) offensive and defensive linemen they might be able to protect Campbell and stop running backs like Brandon Jacobs and Marion Barber from embarrassing them. But if they continue to stupidly waste draft picks on receivers year after year we’ll be talking next December and the December after that, too, about why the Redskins can’t handle teams that are talented and tough in the trenches.





## Celtics win 13th in a row, beat Wizards

At 21-2, the Boston Celtics of Kevin Garnett, Paul Pierce and Ray Allen are off to the best start in the franchise's storied history.

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# Saipan Tribune Sports

## Gould's field goal in OT lifts Bears over Saints

Robbie Gould raced over to his tee on the Chicago Bears sideline after the New Orleans Saints tried to ice him with a timeout in overtime Thursday night.

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# Benjie eyes single, doubles sweep on Tinian

By MARK RABAGO  
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

**B**enjie Decena is looking for a sweep of the singles and doubles championships at the conclusion this weekend of the 2008 Tinian Tennis Tournament.

The youth netter has thoroughly dominated competition at the Tinian Youth Center in San Jose, advancing to the title match of the singles division after compiling a 3-0 win-loss slate following round-robin play.



Decena will take on his father Sonny for all the marbles. The latter finished the eliminations with a 2-1 mark, his only loss exacted by his son.

The father-and-son duo also teamed up in the doubles competitions and will go up against the pair of Archie Montecillo and Rolly Bugarin in the finals.

Benjie's mother, Linda, also is figuring in the championship round of the women's singles where she will go up against Ellen Uy. Linda finished the eliminations with a perfect 3-0 win-loss record, while Uy came in second at 2-1.

Linda will also see action in the women's doubles finals, teaming up with Emy Bugarin to take on Yu and Emily Kwon.

Rain postponed the finals to yesterday and today with the awards banquet set for Sunday, Dec. 14.

While Mother Nature interfered with several of the finals matches, the mother-and-daughter

pair of Leah and Lannie Cunanan annexed the women's 2.0 doubles tiara after beating Geizel Kwon and Jennifer Uy, 8-6, Thursday night.

While Geizel lost in 2.0 doubles, she bounced back by winning the girls' 13-and-under championship against Lannie Cunanan, 6-3.

Other matches Thursday night saw Jake Castro advance to the men's 2.0 finals after beating Jhun Torregosa with a score of 6-3, 6-2.

Castro was seeded No. 1 in group B after compiling a record of 4-0, while Torregosa was No. 2 at 3-1.

He will now await the winner of the semi-final between Victor Cunanan and Merwin Ramos. The former topped Group A with a 4-0 win-loss mark, while the latter was second place at 3-1.

The beginners men's doubles, meanwhile, saw Rene Galviz and Alvin Reyes take the championship after outlasting Jimmy Casauran and Ramon Santiago. 6-3, 3-6. 7-6.

In the beginners men's singles, Jimmy Casauran will play against Rene Galviz in the final.

In the men's 3.0 singles, Group A leader James Clemente (4-0) will square off against Group B runner-up Lualhati Malimban (3-1), while Group B topnotcher Jonathan San Nicolas (4-0) takes on Group A No. 2 Manny Secencio (3-1).

Organizers of the 2008 Tinian Tennis Tournament would like to extend its thank you to the 12th Tinian Municipal Council, Mayor's Office, Tinian Youth Center, PTI, Island Garden, and Tinian Ice & Water Co. for supporting the competition.



Benjie Decena, seen here in a file photo, advanced to the championship round of both the singles and doubles division of the 2008 Tinian Tennis Tournament.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

By MICHAEL WILBON  
The Washington Post



## Redskins don't put enough on the line

**I**t's not Jason Campbell who should be the talk around office water coolers the rest of the week. It's not Jim Zorn's bizarre "benching" of Clinton Portis that should be the chatter that fills the airwaves and Internet sites. What ails the Washington Redskins more than anything else is simple, even if it's not a sexy topic. It's the line play, silly. The Redskins' line play, on both sides of the ball, is completely inadequate.

The offensive line didn't measure up before Chris Samuels was pronounced out for the season and before Jon Jansen had a sprained knee diagnosed, and it figures to be a huge problem over the final three games of the season.

Only three quarterbacks in the NFL had been sacked more than the Redskins' Campbell entering Week 14, which of course is an indictment of the offensive line. The Redskins can't generate even a decent pass rush with their front four, which of course is an indictment of the defensive line, as is the fact that power teams have simply trampled the Redskins in fourth quarters.

Playing in the power division of a power conference, the Redskins can't play power football. They've looked downright puny in losing to the Giants twice, the Ravens, the Steelers and the Cowboys once Dallas realized the way to beat the Redskins is go right through them. All those are power football teams, and they've handed the Redskins five of their six losses. In any game where the other guy is playing power football, the Redskins are going to be overmatched. And that adds up to, well, 8-8, which is what the Redskins will probably be after they end the season with losses to the Eagles and 49ers.

Don't tell me this is about the quarterback, which is the overly simplistic and completely naive story line Washingtonians traditionally fall in love with. We knew Campbell, in his first full season as a starter, would be a work in progress, and he is. But what he needs is the time to go through his progressions. What he has, operating behind a line that can be pushed around, is barely enough time to throw to his first read.

Look, nobody wanted to believe what Clinton Portis said on the eve of the season about this team's offensive line being average at best, but Portis was right. It's not that his linemen can't play well enough some weeks and it's not that they can give any more than they have; it's that individually and collectively they're not good enough.

Portis, who is unquestionably the heart, soul and MVP of this year's team, hasn't had an easy yard all year. The great majority of his yards have been a struggle. If Zorn doesn't realize Portis' willingness to fight for every yard

See REDSKINS on Page 27

# Sakisat, Camacho lead pitching, batting races

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER



As expected, players from league leaders are lording it over in the batting and pitching races in the ongoing Budweiser 2008 Inter Government/Business Softball League.

In the men's division, Mel Sakisat of the undefeated Department of Community and Cultural Affairs (6-0) led the batting competition with his average of .778 after going 14-for-18.

All the Top 10 placers in the batting race recorded above .500. Batting leaders were based on five times or more at-bat.

The Joeten Motors Jets' (5-1) J.J. Laniyo was in second place with .765 batting average tying Docomo's Payton Sakuma. Laniyo and Sakuma both went 13-for-17 at-bat.

In solo third with an average of .733 was the Beach Boys' B.J. Sablan, who was 11-for-15, while Legislature's Dennis Ngeskebei was fourth with his 12-for-17 clip and a batting average of .706.

Three sluggers were tied for fifth with No Zone's Ned Norita, and

See SAKISAT on Page 27



Department of Community and Cultural Affairs' Mel Sakisat, seen here in a file photo, is currently leading the batting category of the Budweiser 2008 Inter Government/Business Softball League with his average of .778.

MARK RABAGO

## POI slips past Customs in make-up game

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

Pacific Oriental, Inc. eked out a 17-16 win over Customs in a make-up

game in the men's division of the Budweiser 2008 Inter Government/Business Softball League Tuesday night at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

An error from Customs short-stop Poland Masaharu allowed catcher Maurice Omengkar to score the game-winning run.

See POI on Page 27